Shade Your Stream:
Lands adjacent to streams should ideally be covered by native trees, shrubs, and other plants.

Why Is Shading Important?

Water Quality:
Vegetation along stream banks keeps soil, pesticides, and fertilizers from getting into the stream.

Water Flow:
A healthy shaded stream slows down water, which helps to maintain stable stream banks and protects downstream property.

Cool Temperatures:
Shade keeps the water cool, allowing fish and aquatic life to thrive.

Roots:
Roots anchor the soil, reduce flood damage, and take up excess fertilizers.

Food & Shelter:
Leaves and branches provide food and shelter for insects, fish, and other aquatic life.

Wildlife Habitat:
Shaded streams provide valuable habitat for wildlife.

Avoid Invasives:
Invasive plant species can harm your stream because they crowd out native plants that are beneficial for aquatic insects and fish.

Native Plants for Shading:
Native plants are an essential part of the food web that supports our local ecosystems.

Rhododendron
Silvertop
Winterberry
River Birch
Big Bluestem

Other Suggestions:
Black cherry
Silky dogwood
Sycamore
Spicebush
Alder
Paw paw
Black Willow

Valuable Resources:
www.shadeyourstream.org
www.nceep.net

Protect the land you paid for, don't let it wash away!
Protect, or plant, native shrubs, trees, or other vegetation along stream banks to help prevent bank erosion, trap sediment, and filter out pollutants.

Fence livestock away from streams to avoid damage to stream banks and existing plants.

Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for information on its cost-sharing program to help you pay for well installation, fencing for livestock, and other best management practices.

Keep natural meanders in the stream to prevent erosion and loss of stream habitat.

What should I avoid?

- Mowing directly up to the stream bank.
- Removing streamside shrubs, trees, and other vegetation.
- Farming up to the edge of a stream.
- Allowing livestock direct access to the stream.
- Straightening sections of stream (channelization).

What should I do?

- Fence livestock away from streams to avoid damage to stream banks and existing plants.
- Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for information on its cost-sharing program to help you pay for well installation, fencing for livestock, and other best management practices.
- Keep natural meanders in the stream to prevent erosion and loss of stream habitat.