

Riparian Forest Buffer

For Your Home

Is A Stream Eroding Your Property?

A strip of wooded land adjacent to waterways. Forest buffers help reduce erosion, improve water quality, create wildlife habitat, and helps sustain aquatic life.

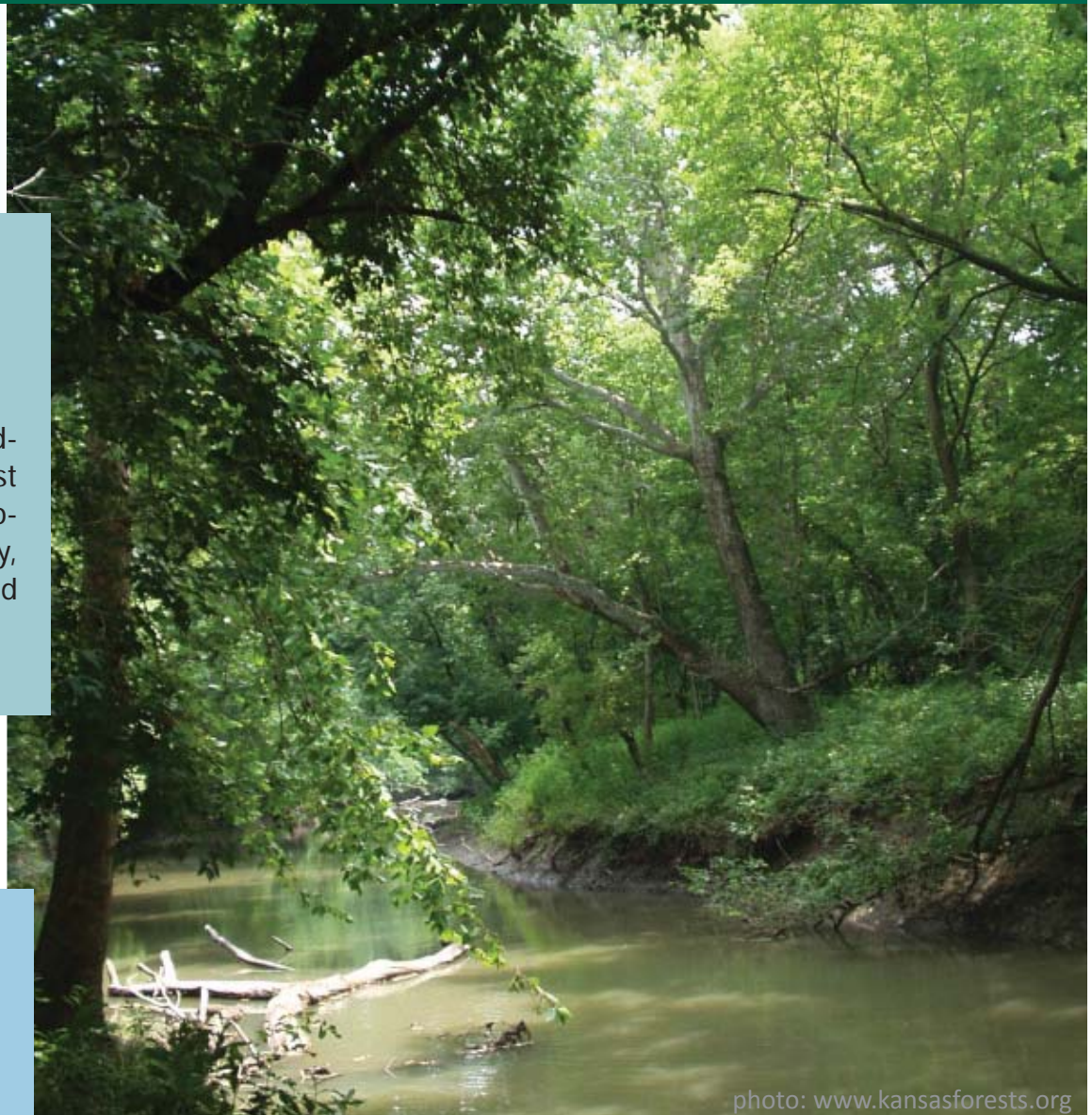


photo: www.kansasforests.org

A riparian forest buffer is a strip of wooded land adjacent to a waterway. These buffers help reduce erosion, improve water quality, create wildlife habitat, and help sustain aquatic life. Native plant species are preferred. Roots of riparian vegetation stabilize the stream bank and prevent stream bank erosion and sedimentation. Preventing excess sedimentation helps prevent silt from covering large rocks and stones in the stream bed which serve as habitat for many aquatic macroinvertebrates. Overhanging stream banks, stabilized by tree roots and large woody debris, can be important habitat for aquatic wildlife.

Cold Climate Considerations:

See list on back for specific plants that will survive in a Fairbanks forest buffer.

Materials:

- Native or naturalized plants

Tools:

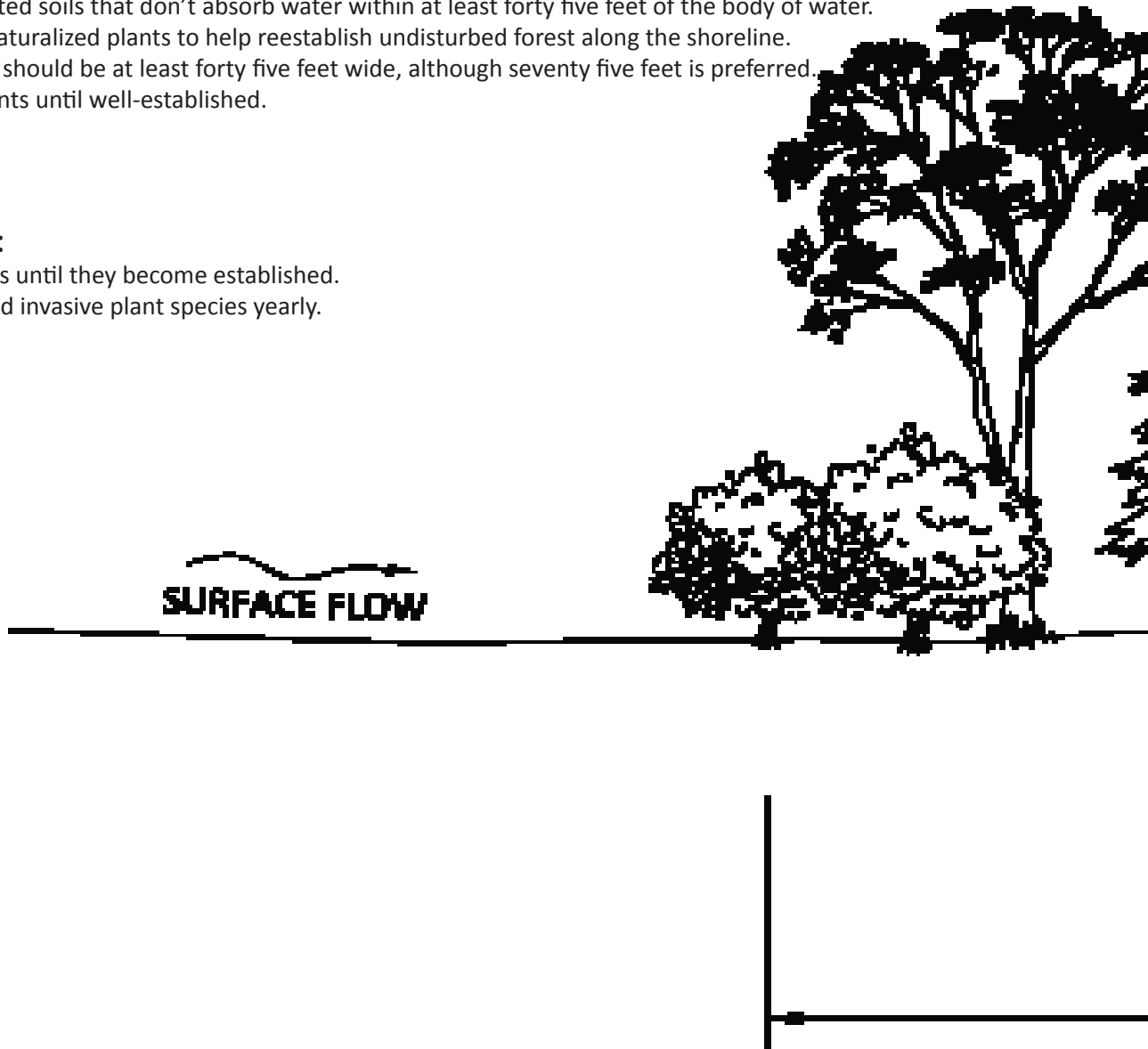
- Shovel

Steps:

1. Walk the length of stream bank on your property to determine areas that show signs of erosion.
2. Mark off area with flagging tape.
3. Before you dig, be aware of underground service lines or utilities on your property. Call 1-800-478-3121 or go online at www.akonecall.com to have the underground lines marked for you.
4. Remove compacted soils that don't absorb water within at least forty five feet of the body of water.
5. Plant native or naturalized plants to help reestablish undisturbed forest along the shoreline. This strip of land should be at least forty five feet wide, although seventy five feet is preferred.
6. Water young plants until well-established.

Maintenance:

- Water new plants until they become established.
- Remove trash and invasive plant species yearly.



Cost Estimate:

- \$300 - \$1000 depending on size of buffer and materials.

Time Estimate:

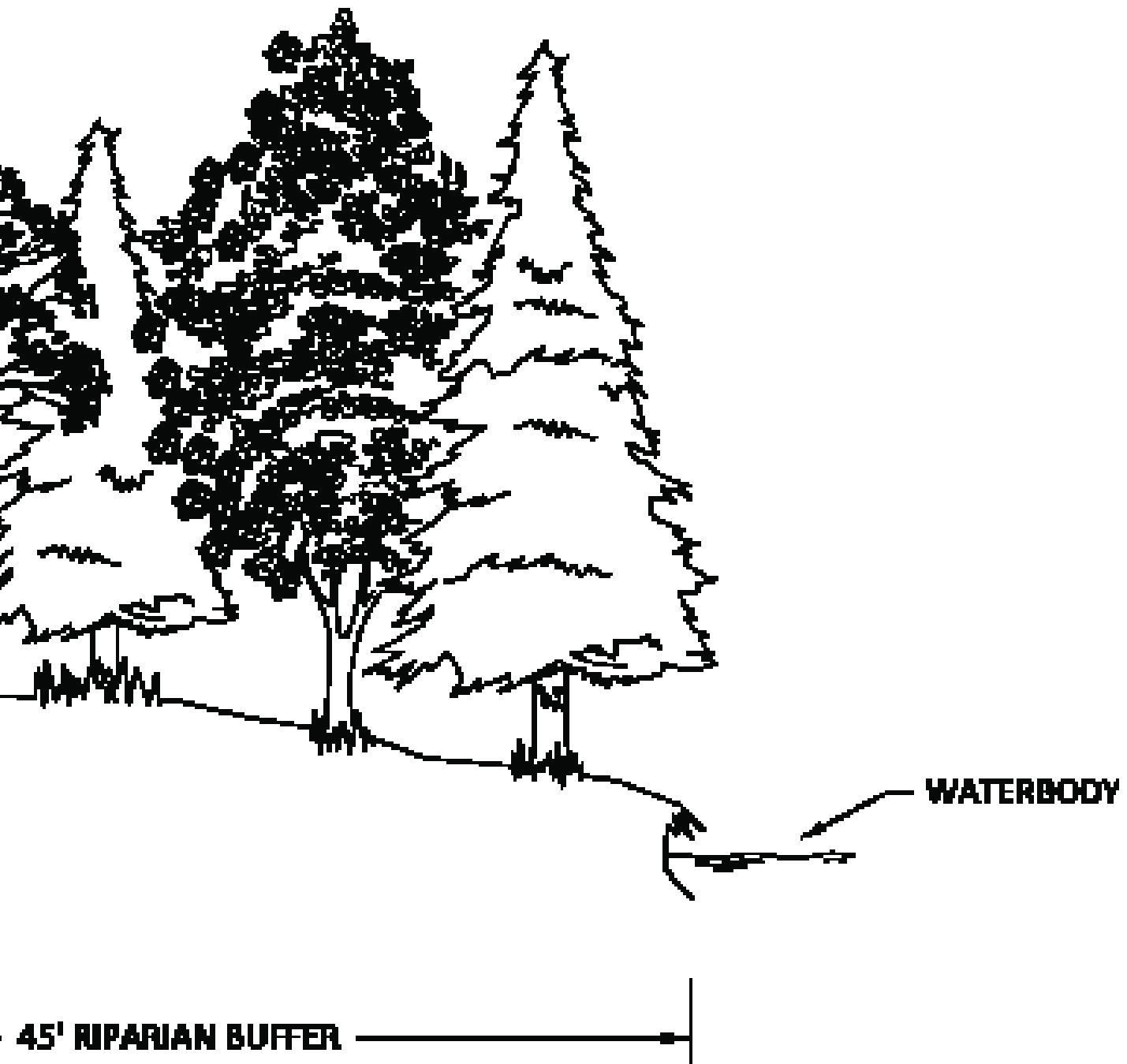
- This project could take one to four days to complete.

Pros:

- Reduces water runoff.
- Reduces property erosion.
- Increases groundwater infiltration.
- Minimal maintenance required.
- Creates habitat for birds and insects.
- Helps maintain aquatic habitats.
- Helps keep water bodies cool.
- Homeowner can install without assistance.

Cons:

- Requires land adjacent to water.



45' RIPARIAN BUFFER

Plants Suited to an Alaskan Riparian Forest Buffer		Key: Shade - ☀ Partial Shade - ☀☀ Full Sun - ☀☀☀	
Plant Type	Plant Name	Latin Name	Growing Conditions
Evergreen Shrubs	Creeping Juniper	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>	☀☀☀
Deciduous shrubs	Saskatoon Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	☀☀☀
	Nanking Cherry	<i>Prunus tomentosa</i>	☀☀☀
	Flowering Almond	<i>Prunus triloba</i>	☀☀☀
	Rugosa Rose	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	☀☀☀
	Royalty Lilac	<i>Syringa x prestoniae 'Royalty'</i>	☀☀☀
	Highbush Cranberry	<i>Viburnum edule</i>	☀☀☀
	Willow	<i>Salix bebbiana, lasiandra, or alaxensis</i>	☀☀☀
	Thinleaf Alder	<i>Alnus tenuifolia</i>	☀☀☀
Evergreen Trees	White Spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>	☀☀☀
	Scotch Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	☀☀☀
Deciduous Trees	Alaska Paper Birch	<i>Betula neolaskana</i>	☀☀☀
	Siberian Crabapple	<i>Malus baccata</i>	☀☀☀
	Quaking Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	☀☀☀
	Amur Chokecherry	<i>Prunus maackii</i>	☀☀☀

For more information about the Green Infrastructure Project please visit: www.cchrc.org/green-infrastructure

Sources:

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www.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=birds.plants
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www.uaf.edu/ces/water/pdf/pnw552.pdf
- Tanana Valley Watershed Association. (2010). Tanana Valley Watershed Association. Retrieved October 27, 2010 from:
www.tvwatershed.org/content/
- University of Alaska Fairbanks, Cooperative Extension Service, Transplanting Trees Successfully
www.uaf.edu/ces/publications-db/catalog/anr/HGA-00335.pdf
- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Riparian Forest Buffer Practice Job Sheet
www.wsi.nrcs.usda.gov/products/w2q/strm_rst/docs/buff/Riparian_Forest_Buffer_Practice_Job_Sheet.pdf

