



Riparian Health Inventory

Riparian health inventory is an in-depth measurement of riparian health. Inventories are conducted by resource specialists with extensive training and knowledge of riparian systems. Approximately 80 parameters are measured to provide a comprehensive and detailed evaluation of riparian health. These detailed measurements are used to determine watershed condition, aid in preparation of management plans and provide a tool for monitoring. A summary of an inventory may be provided in the same format as the field sheet of a riparian health assessment.



Riparian Health Training

Interested in more information on how to do these measurements? You might consider taking in a riparian awareness presentation. It will help you understand riparian areas better and allow you to use a checklist, to start you down the road. That's getting your feet wet! Wading into it will require some training in riparian health assessment. You will learn the basics of evaluating the riparian health of a stream, river, wetland or lake. With the knowledge from a workshop and some experience from field training you will be able to apply riparian health assessment procedure on your own place. Community groups, municipalities, counties and watershed groups will find these workshops useful in understanding the procedures of riparian health assessment and in interpreting the results of watershed level riparian health inventories. Detailed riparian health inventories require significant levels of training, plus a background in vegetation identification and other aspects of riparian landscapes. Diving into that level is a serious commitment! The Riparian Health Training Fact Sheet is a good place to start to determine the level that is right for you.



Take a Picture!

One of the best things you can do to help see the trend in riparian health is take a picture and follow-up with photographs in subsequent years. Combined with health evaluations, it will give you a visual reminder of where you began and where you are now. Make sure there is a visible landmark in the photograph, and remember to take the photograph from the same place at approximately the same time of year.



In 1995 this reach of stream had some significant riparian health issues, but management changes were underway, including the establishment of this photo point.



By 2000, some recovery has occurred, in terms of fewer weeds and regeneration of balsam poplars.