

The following tables list suitable trees, shrubs, vines and herbaceous plants for growing in riparian buffers in the Haw River watershed.

++ always + generally ± occasionally - infrequently

Common Name	Botanical Name	Tolerance:		
		Flood	Shade	Deer
CANOPY TREES (over 35 feet)				
Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	++		
Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	±	+	+
Bitternut Hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	±		
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	±		
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	±		
Black Willow	<i>Salix nigra</i>	++	+	±
Blackgum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	±		
Cherrybark Oak	<i>Quercus pagodaefolia</i>	+		±
Elms (winged, american)	<i>Ulmus (alata, americana)</i>	±	+	
Green Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	+		
Hop-hornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	±	+	
Overcup Oak	<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	+		
Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	±		
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	+	+	±
Red Mulberry	<i>Morus rubra</i>	±	+	
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	+		+
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	±		
Shumard Oak	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	+		±
Sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	-		
Southern Sugar Maple	<i>Acer barbatum</i>	+	+	
Sugarberry	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	+		
Swamp Chestnut Oak	<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	+		±
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	+		+
Tulip Poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	±		
Tupelo Gum	<i>Nyssa 'biflora'</i>	++		
Water Oak	<i>Quercus nigra</i>	+		±
White Basswood	<i>Tilia heterophylla</i>	-	+	
Willow Oak	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	+		±
UNDERSTORY TREES (up to 35 feet)				
American Holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	+		
Bladdernut	<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	±	+	
Box Elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	+	+	
Fringetree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	±	±	
Ironwood	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	±	+	
Parsley Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus marshallii</i>	+	+	
Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	±	+	
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	-	±	-
Snowbell	<i>Styrax grandifolia</i>	±	±	
Sweetbay	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	++		
Umbrella Tree	<i>Magnolia tripetala</i>	±	+	
SHRUBS (up to 10 feet)				
Beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	±		
Buttonbush	<i>Cephaelanthus occidentalis</i>	++		
Coral Berry	<i>Symporicarpos orbiculatus</i>	±		

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Deciduous Holly	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	+	+	
Doghobble	<i>Leucothoe axillaris</i>	+	+	+
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	+		
Fetterbush	<i>Leucothoe racemosa</i>	+		+
Giant Cane	<i>Arundinaria gigantea</i>	+		
Hazel-Nut	<i>Corylus americana</i>	-	+	
Hearts a 'bustin'	<i>Euonymus americana</i>	±	+	-
Inkberry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	+		
Male-Berry	<i>Lyonia ligustrina</i>	+	+	
Maple-Leaf Viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	-	+	
Marsh Mallow	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	++		
Painted Buckeye	<i>Aesculus sylvatica</i>	±		
Possum Haw	<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	+		
Red Chokeberry	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	+		
Rusty Blackhaw	<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	-	+	
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	±	+	±
Silky Dogwood	<i>Cornus amomum</i>	+	+	
Silky Willow	<i>Salix sericea</i>	++		±
Southern Arrow-Wood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	±		
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	+	+	
Swamp Azalea	<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	+		
Swamp Dogwood	<i>Cornus stricta</i>	+		
Swamp Rose	<i>Rosa palustris</i>	++		
Sweet Leaf	<i>Symplocos tinctoria</i>	±	+	
Sweet-Shrub	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	±	+	
Tag Alder	<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	+		
Virginia Willow	<i>Itea virginica</i>	+		
Wild Azalea	<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	±		-
Winter Berry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	+	+	
Witch-Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	±	+	±
Yellow-Root	<i>Xanthorhiza simplicissima</i>	+	++	
VINES				
Climbing Milkvine	<i>Matelea reticulata</i>	+	+	
Coral Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	±		+
Summer Grape	<i>Vitis aestivalis</i>	-		
Virgin's Bower	<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	±		-
Virginia Creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	±	+	±
Wild Yam	<i>Dioscorea villosa</i>	±	+	
HERBACEOUS				
Arrow Leaf (Arum)	<i>Peltandra virginica</i>	++		+
Black Cohosh	<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i>	+	+	
Bladder Sedge	<i>Carex intumescens</i>	+	+	
Bluets*	<i>Houstonia caerulea</i>	±	+	
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	+	+	+
Bottlebrush Grass	<i>Elymus hystrix</i>	+	+	
Broom Sedge	<i>Carex scoparia</i>	+		
Bur-Reed	<i>Sparganium americanum</i>	++		
Bushy Seedbox	<i>Ludwigia alternifolia</i>	++		
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	+	+	-

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Carolina Spring Beauty*	<i>Claytonia virginica</i>	±	+	
Christmas Fern	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	±	+	+
Cinnamon Fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	+		
Coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	+		
Duck Potato	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	++		
Dwarf Crested Iris	<i>Iris cristata</i>	+	+	+
Foamflower	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	±	+	
Fox Sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	++		
Fringed Sedge	<i>Carex crinata</i>	+		
Gray's Sedge	<i>Carex grayii</i>	+	+	
Great Blue Lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	++		-
Green Bulrush	<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	++		
Hard Tack	<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	+		
Heart-Leaved Aster	<i>Aster divaricatus</i>			
Hop Sedge	<i>Carex lupulina</i>	++		
Horsetail Rush	<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>	±		
Indian Cucumber-Root	<i>Medeola virginiana</i>			+
Ironweed	<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	+		
Jack-In-The-Pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	±	+	+
Jewel-Weed*	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	+	+	
Joe-Pye-Weed	<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>	+	+	+
Liverleaf*	<i>Hepatica americana</i>	+		
Lizard's Tail	<i>Saururus cernuus</i>	++	+	
Lurid Sedge	<i>Carex lurida</i>	++	+	
Marsh Fern	<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	+	+	
Monkey Flower	<i>Mimulus ringens and M. alatus</i>	++		
Pickerel Weed	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	++		
Ranunculus Species	<i>Ranunculaceae family</i>	+/-		+
Rice Cutgrass	<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	++		
River Oats	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	±	+	
Royal Fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	++	+	
Sensitive Fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	+	+	+
Skullcap	<i>Scutellaria integrifolia</i>	+		
Snakeroot	<i>Sanicula canadensis</i>	-		
Soft Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	+		
Soft Stem Bulrush	<i>Scirpus validus</i>	++		
Solomon's Plume	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	±	+	
Southern Wild Rice	<i>Zizaniopsis miliacea</i>	++		
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	++		
Sweet Chervil	<i>Osmorhiza longistylis</i>	±	+	+
Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	+		
Toothwart	<i>Cardamine angustata</i>	±	+	
Trout Lily*	<i>Erythronium americanum</i>	+	+	
Turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	++		+
Tussock Sedge	<i>Carex stricta</i>	++		
Umbrella Sedge	<i>Cyperus strigosus</i>	+	+	
Violas	<i>Viola spp.</i>	+/-	+	+
Virginia Wild-Rye	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	±		
Wind Flower	<i>Anemonella thalictroides</i>	+	+	
Woolgrass	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	++		

* Not available from nurseries, but species will disperse in from upstream or from tributaries.

Establish and maintain native vegetation on riparian buffers to protect streams.

Riparian Buffer is the land adjacent to a stream where the presence of vegetation strongly influences water quality, as in the following ways:

Slows Stormwater: *The natural vegetation along waterways of trees, shrubs, vines and ground covers holds soil in place, reducing stormwater runoff and flooding.*

Protects Water Quality: *Natural vegetation acts as a living filter to remove pollutants before they enter streams.*

Keeps Streams Healthy: *Forested buffers provide needed shade and food for a healthy aquatic ecosystem.*

Keeps Soil Out: *Without the buffer of trees and other natural vegetation, soil is easily washed into the streams and stormwater surges undercut the streambank, adding to the sediment load.*

Provides a Wildlife Corridor: *The streamside forest and wetlands are a unique environment, home to many diverse species of plants and animals. Many reptiles and amphibians depend on these riparian areas for survival.*

The growth of **native plants** along stream banks contributes to the health and restoration of the riparian ecosystem. *“Our particularly dynamic stream and river corridors are regularly scoured, reshaped, re-vegetated, and altered by exotic plants. Humans have changed riparian dynamics in many ways and should now help to rehabilitate this vital ecosystem. Through careful intervention we can, through invasive exotic plant removal and indigenous species replacement, help Nature’s reproductive processes.” – Johnny Randall, North Carolina Botanical Garden*



The **Haw River Assembly** is a grassroots non-profit organization, working since 1982 to restore and protect the Haw River, its tributaries, and Jordan Lake, and to build a community that shares this vision.

Join us in our efforts!

You can reach us at:

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The creation of this brochure was sponsored by

The Scott Family Endowment Fund and
The Wiseacre Farm Fund
of the Triangle Community Foundation
and
The Federal 319 Nonpoint Source Funds
Administered by
The NC Division of Water Quality

Native Plant Recommendations for Stream Banks in the Haw River Watershed



artwork by Emma Skurnick

Protect our streams and promote natural biodiversity by planting native shrubs, trees and other vegetation along stream banks.

Stream Steward Campaign
a project of the Haw River Assembly
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