

Maintain Existing Native Vegetation

Maintaining existing vegetation is a simple practice to incorporate into the design of a new development. In many instances, areas that would be cleared and then eventually re-landscaped would benefit tremendously from maintaining the original vegetation throughout the construction process.

Small measures would be necessary to protect the vegetation, but this is still a cost effective way to maintain high infiltration rates on a site. Compaction of the soil caused by clearing and grading often results in poor infiltration rates when new vegetation is replanted. New vegetation may then be more difficult to establish because it may not receive adequate amounts of water.

In addition, if vegetation is not established on its own, local regulations require replanting or re-seeding, which add to the overall cost of the project.



Riparian areas provide important protective functions for stream quality and habitat.