



WHAT IS STREAM TEMPERATURE?

Did you ever notice that the vegetation along waterways often includes tall trees, smaller shrubs, and sometimes grasses or vines? These plants all play an important role in providing a healthy habitat for wildlife and everything that lives there – even us.

Tall trees are especially important to stream health for a number of reasons such as bank stabilization, large woody debris for fish, and more. But trees also play a major role in blocking incoming solar radiation from warming the water in our waterways. Trout and Salmon are more sensitive to warm water than some other fish. While some adult fish may be more able to withstand increasing water temperature, for spawning and hatching of eggs, much lower temperatures are required. Many species spawn only above or below certain temperatures.

What can you do to help?

- Volunteer for a restoration project;
- Plant a tree and care for it properly. Whether near a stream or far away, trees do remarkable job of removing pollutants from the air and soil. They also cool the environment in general;
- Explore the use of native plants in your yard or in a neighbors yard;
- Support green infrastructure projects in your community such as rain gardens or vegetated swales.
- Build your own rain garden;
- Educate yourself and spread the word.

GREEN IS GOOD!