



December 6, 2022

Dear Lancaster County Neighbor:

As a property owner with a stream, you know firsthand that heavy rains can affect your land and water. Whether you are a farmer, homeowner, or property manager, you may experience reductions in the value and enjoyment of your property due to the effects of flooding, soil erosion, and poor water quality.

Fortunately, there are solutions. Stroud Water Research Center is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization. We have helped hundreds of property owners and farmers improve their stream at little or no cost.

Here's how. The Stroud Center can establish a beautiful and compact planting of trees and shrubs along your waterway, no matter how big or small your stream. As it grows, this streamside buffer provides many benefits:

- Trees greatly reduce the impact of stream erosion and flooding.
- Water-loving shrubs planted directly into bare streambanks slow excessive erosion.
- Native trees and shrubs protect your property while creating important habitat for songbirds, butterflies, fish, and other wildlife that you can enjoy without leaving home.

Because streamside plantings are a high priority for Lancaster County's clean water plan, there is no cost to landowners for the trees, materials, and installation. If you have livestock, we will install high quality fencing and crossings before installing trees. The Stroud Center will help you care for the trees and control unwanted weeds. If you already have a streamside buffer, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Please contact us to learn more. At your request, we can visit your property with you to discuss options. Then, if you choose to move ahead, we will develop the right type of planting for your property with native trees and shrubs that you select with us.

Please call or text me at 717-615-5768, or send an email to buffers@stroudcenter.org to discuss your questions. The Stroud Center works in partnership with other tree planting organizations in the county and, if you prefer, we will assist you in finding the right organization to meet your specific needs.

Streamside forest buffers are a great way to beautify and enhance your property. By caring for your own stream, you will be joining thousands of other property owners who are helping Lancaster County implement its clean water plan for local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lamonte Garber".

Lamonte Garber
Watershed Restoration Coordinator