



Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District

Technical Bulletin # 98-004

Subject: Evergreen Revetment Maintenance

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Evergreen Revetments

An evergreen revetment is a restoration practice that encourages deposition along an eroding river or stream bank. They are constructed from whole green trees (except the roots) that are cabled together and anchored in place along an eroding streambank.

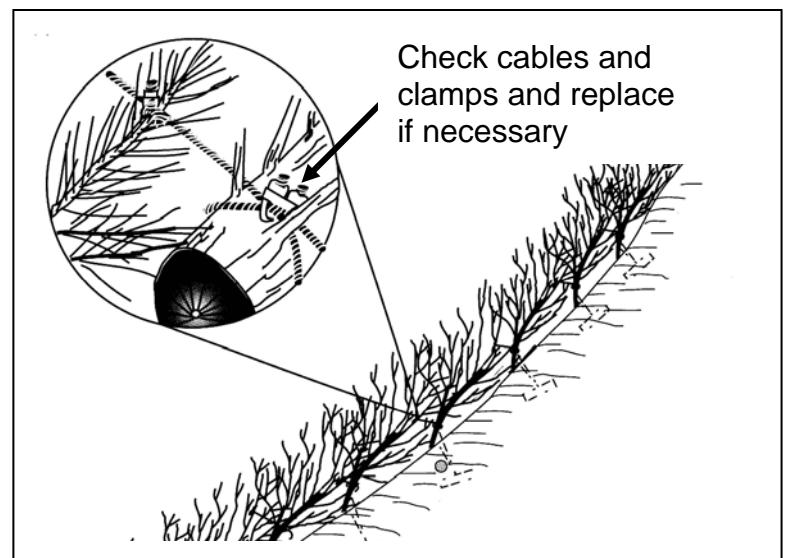
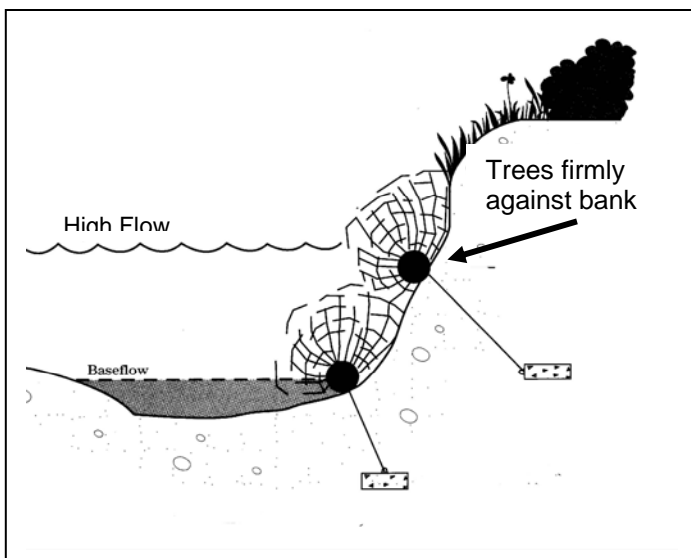
Evergreen Revetment Maintenance

Evergreen revetments require very little maintenance. Once installed often all that is required is periodic inspections. For the first couple of years, with the exception of inspections, it should be left alone and be allowed to fill in with sediment. Inspections are critical after the first couple major flows. After the revetment has endured a couple inundations, inspections can be more semi-annual in nature.

After the revetment is adequately filled in, it can be planted with willows or other native plants that will help hold the sediment in place.

Items that need periodic inspections include:

- Inspect cables, clamps, and anchors by pulling firmly on them and the trees they are connected to. Tighten any loose hardware so that the trees are held firmly against the bank.
- As trees settle into place there may be opportunities to add trees to areas that become exposed or in low spots that develop. Simply place the tree(s) in desired spot and anchor it to the existing hardware or anchor it in place in a manner that is consistent with the rest of the revetment.
- Monitor sediment deposition patterns around the revetment. Deposits may not form in desired areas or may accumulate in unintended areas. Changes in the revetment may be needed to shift deposition patterns. Your local SWCD can help you determine if alterations to the revetment are needed.



See back for planting information

Suggested plantings for evergreen revetments:

Revetments most often become vegetated naturally. Streams and rivers transport millions of seeds and if the conditions are right at the revetment site they will grow there. Revetments can however, be planted to jumpstart this process.

Note: It is very important to use native species when planting along rivers and streams as non-native species may be transported down stream and become established in other areas.

Recommended plants for revetment plantings

Native plants that can be used to re-establish vegetative cover on stream banks:

Trees		Shrubs		Grasses / Wildflowers	
Sugar Maple	sun	Grey Dogwood	shade	Pennsylvania Sedge	sun
Cotton Wood	sun	Red Dogwood	sun	Bottlebrush grass	sun
White Ash	p/shade	Honeysuckle	p/shade	Canada Wild Rye	sun
Basswood	shade	RV Honeysuckle	sun	Panic Grass	sun
SB Hickory	sun	Wild Plum	shade	Columbine	p/shade
Red Oak	sun	Blackhaw	shade	Blue Phlox	p/shade
White Pine	sun	Sandbar Willow	sun	Trout Lilly	p/shade
Black Walnut	sun	Witchhazel	shade	Trilliums	p/shade
Service Berry	shade	Nanny Berry	shade	May Apples	p/shade
Paper Birch	sun	Arrowwood Viburnum			

Contact the Lake SWCD for additional planting options

Buffer your revetment

Riparian buffers can help protect your revetment as well as improve the quality of your stream. Riparian buffers are strips of vegetated, preferably wooded, land on either side of a river or stream. This buffer helps to slow high water flows, stabilizes the slope next to the revetment, and provides shading, nutrients and habitat to the stream.