

# Restoring Riparian Zones of the Niagara River Project

Over the next two years, this project will aim to create, restore, and expand up to 2 kilometres of vegetated shoreline buffers along the Niagara River through the removal of non-native species, where required, and the planting of a diversity of native plant species. Also, where possible, woody debris will be anchored at select locations within the river to soften the shoreline and provide suitable fish refuge and nursery habitat. In collaboration with Niagara College's Ecosystem Restoration Program, priority areas for shoreline vegetation restoration have been identified for initial implementation.



Riparian buffers are essential for providing bank stability, mitigating flooding, improving water quality, and creating wildlife habitat. With financial support from Environment Canada's Great Lakes Protection Initiative this project contributes to the Niagara River Area of Concern - Remedial Action Plan, specifically addressing the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Beneficial Use Impairment. This project will also directly contribute to Niagara Parks' new Urban Forestry Management Strategy which has a target of 75% of the Niagara River shoreline being covered with native vegetation. Currently, less than 35% of the Niagara River shoreline is dominated by native vegetation.

## Key Project Activities

- Communicate with neighbouring landowners and stakeholders.
- Create, restore, and expand (width) a minimum of one kilometer of riparian buffers along the Niagara River annually by planting a minimum of 15,000 native species of shrubs, trees and wildflowers and grasses.
- Install sediment and erosion control measures as needed
- Implement site preparations (cutting, mowing, regrading) to ensure success of native vegetation.
- Anchor woody debris into Niagara River to create fish habitat
- Monitoring of the sites for 'pre', 'during' and 'post' construction
- Develop and Install educational signage.

Funded by



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada