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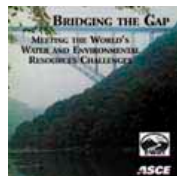
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An Interdisciplinary Study of the Ecological Benefits of Riparian Reforestation in Urban Watersheds

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Riparian forests have been shown to provide many important benefits to stream ecosystems. In urban watersheds, however, the ecological benefits of riparian restoration may be diminished due to widespread hydrologic and biogeochemical disturbance within the watershed. An integrated, multidisciplinary study is being conducted in southeastern Pennsylvania to assess the ecological benefits of riparian reforestation in urban watersheds. The study is based on comparisons of physical, chemical, and biological attributes in forested and non-forested sections of 12 streams with different levels of urban development within their watersheds. Results show a range differences in geomorphic, habitat, and biological attributes in forested versus non-forested stream reaches, and urban versus non-urban streams.

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