

Nottawasaga River Restoration Program

Four Step River Bank Restoration Technique



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NVCA uses natural materials in a science-based approach involving volunteers and heavy machinery to stabilize eroding river banks and improve trout habitat.



Step 1. Volunteers Install Cut Christmas Trees

Volunteers use soil anchors to secure cut Christmas trees "shingle-fashion" to the bottom of the eroding bank.

This step creates habitat for small fish and stabilizes the lower bank.



Step 2. Heavy Machinery adds Woody Cover



The excavator machine reduces the height of the eroding bank. Logs and tree roots are installed on top of the Christmas trees.



This step creates excellent habitat for large fish and stabilizes the middle part of the bank.

Step 3. Heavy Machinery adds Sod and Live Vegetation

The excavator machine adds live sod, shrubs and some large trees to the restored river bank.

This step establishes instant stream-side habitat, provides shade and stabilizes the upper bank.



Step 4. Volunteers Plant Native Trees

Volunteers plant moisture-tolerant trees like eastern white cedar, tamarack and silver maple to the restored river banks.

This step provides long-term stream-side habitat and shade.

Shrubs which grow deep roots such as Red Osier Dogwood are also planted to ensure long-term river bank stability.

