

New Stream Channel West of Colchester Dr.



Effects of Vegetation on Bank Erosion

Vegetation can have a significant impact on bank erosion. Generally, banks with vegetation erode more slowly than those without. Dense vegetation growing on the bank face can deflect flowing water and prevent fluvial erosion. Roots generally increase the strength of bank material, making a bank less prone to mass failure. However, trees can also add significant weight to the tops of stream banks and may actually decrease stability.

One of the most common areas where rapid erosion occurs is along unvegetated stream and river banks. Grass or sparse vegetation along a stream or river bank creates the perfect opportunity for erosion – sparse vegetation and grass do not provide a soil-stabilizing root system.