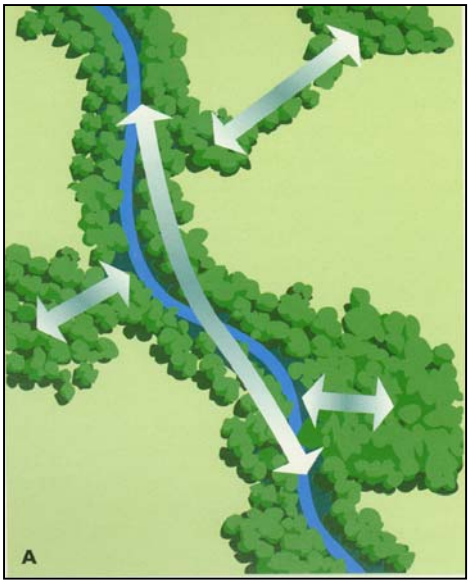
Forestry and Water Quality/ Quantity

The current and future forest cover in the watershed is a valuable natural resource for improving water quality and controlling excessive volume.

Why are trees important? Urban and rural forests located in the Banklick watershed, particularly those in riparian areas, are sustainable forest ecosystems that provide direct benefits to not only waters of a watershed, but also to the overall quality of life. Trees…

- Stabilize soils
- Improve air quality
- Mitigate water pollution
- Reduce energy costs
- Reduce visual and noise pollution
- Provide effective stormwater controls
- Provide a natural habitat for wildlife
- Provide welcome shade for people
- Add color and interest to the landscape

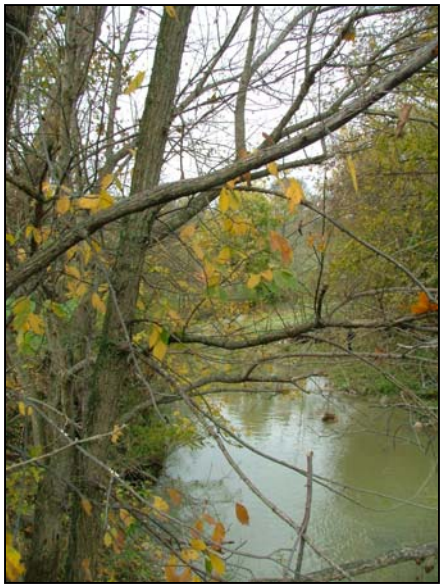


Issue: Almost 75 percent of the watershed can be classified as a riparian zone. The lack of forested stream buffers reduces the benefits trees provide to improve water quality and decrease excessive water quantity.

Issue: There is a lack of forest cover in the southern portion of the watershed, especially along headwater tributaries, which can reduce the benefits of forests in mitigating water quality and quantity problems. There may be restoration opportunities in these areas.

Issue: The forest canopy cover in the watershed lacks a significant amount of medium and large canopy trees; trees in these size classes and their associated ecosystems can have the greatest positive impact on improving water quality and moderating water quantity.

Issue: Increasing awareness and education for citizens, landowners, and government officials about forest management (e.g., planting and maintenance) will encourage protection of existing forests and favor growth of medium and large canopy forests.



For more information contact NKAPC at (859) 331-8980 or at www.nkapc.org.