

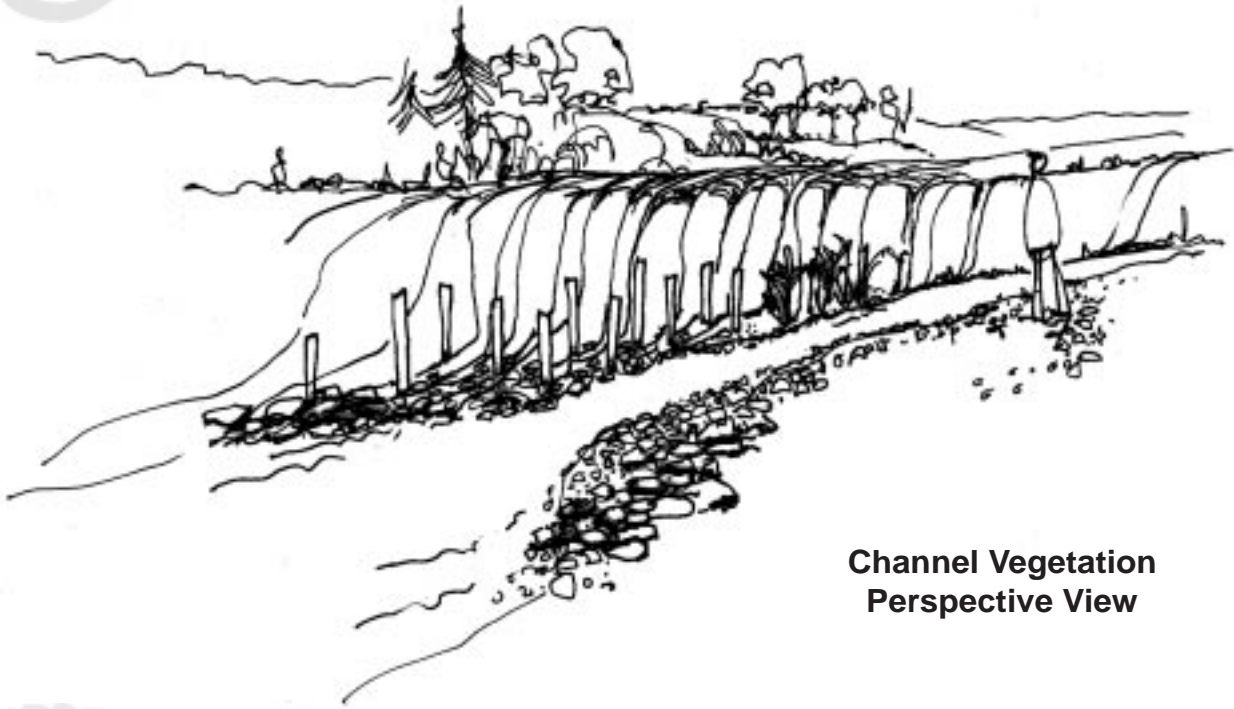
PRIMARY USE: To stabilize channel banks and adjacent areas and reduce erosion and sedimentation.
ADDITIONAL USES: To maintain or enhance the quality of the environment, including visual aspects and fish and wildlife habitat.

CHANNEL VEGETATION

What is it? Establishing and maintaining adequate plants on channel banks, berms, spoil, and associated areas.

Purpose

An adequate vegetative cover stabilizes the channel area and provides for temporary or permanent protection or both.



**Channel Vegetation
Perspective View**

Limitations

Use on channel banks, berms, spoil, and associated areas; except grassed waterways, diversions and areas with protective linings, those covered with water for an extended period, or in areas where conditions will not support adequate vegetation.

Materials

Specify species that are suited to the soil, climate, and exposure. They must provide a lasting cover to protect the channel area and to maintain the channel design capacity. Use special purpose plantings outside the channel for wildlife, recreation, or visual resources.

Installation

Upstream development accelerates stream bank erosion by increasing the velocity, frequency, and may decrease flow. As a result, many natural streams that were stable become unstable following urbanization. Streambanks may be stabilized by selected vegetation or by structural means. In many cases a combination of vegetative and structural measures should be used. Wherever possible, it is best to protect banks with living plants that are adapted to the site. Natural plant communities are aesthetically pleasing, provide a habitat for fish and wildlife, afford a self-maintaining cover, and are less expensive and damaging to the environment. Specify side slopes that permit establishing and maintaining desired vegetation and that have been effective in the past. In urban and recreation areas, flatter side slopes may be required to provide for public safety and enhancement of visual resources.

Source: NRCS Planning and Design Manual, NRCS.