

VGC Rules and Regulations

#01 VGC Riparian corridor

Years ago, After several meetings between the original developers of The Villages, our landscape architect/ecologist, and state fish and game officials, it was agreed to establish certain objectives to maintain Our 50' wide Garrison Creek Riparian corridor which extends 25' north and 25' south of the center point of Garrison creek as it passes through The Villages.

Put into writing over 15 years ago, these objectives continue as The Villages' volunteers and contractors strive to maintain this special part of the Villages.

The Villages Riparian Corridor - Goal and objectives

Definition: Riparian corridor /zone/area, or Riparian buffer zone, is the interface between land and a river or stream

Goal

- To Provide enhanced fish and wildlife habitat within the Garrison Creek Riparian Corridor.

Objectives

- Increase plant species and structural diversity within the Riparian corridor by planting a variety of native evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs. Diverse plant communities provide better habitat value to wildlife
- Provide shade to Garrison Creek by selecting appropriate native trees and shrubs for each of the hydrologic regimes within the Riparian corridor (i.e., stream bank, wetland, and upland buffer). Shading of the creek benefits fish life by reducing water temperature during the hot summer months. Warm water hold less oxygen.
- Provide an enhanced ecological linkage/pathway for wildlife moving to areas upstream and downstream of The Villages.
- Install and retain, where feasible, large woody debris (stumps, and logs) within the stream channel, stream bank's and buffer areas as habitat for fish and wildlife.
- Provide a source of future large woody debris recruitment within the stream channel by planting native trees in the Riparian corridor.
- Maintain a restricted environment, allowing no permanent construction within the Riparian corridor, and no walking or wading in the creek.