

Riprap Bank Protection

Riprap consists of blocky, angular rocks of different sizes and shapes. In a streambank stabilization job, the riprap is placed on the bank in such a way that the rocks are not segregated by size. Smaller rocks should chink in the void spaces between the larger rocks. When properly placed, each rock will be locked in to place by the surrounding rocks, creating a virtually solid, immovable object. To add further stability, the riprap should be keyed in to the bank and bed. A “core trench” of at least 2 feet deep should be dug in the streambed for the entire length of the project to act as a foundation for the structure. “Bank keys”, where the riprap is trenched in to the bank at an angle, should be installed at the upstream and downstream ends of the project to prevent flanking.

In Bradford County, the highly erosive nature of our soils and steep topography, combine with transportation, residential, and agricultural impacts to create notoriously unstable streams. In many cases, riprap bank protection is the only effective treatment to stabilize an eroding bank.

