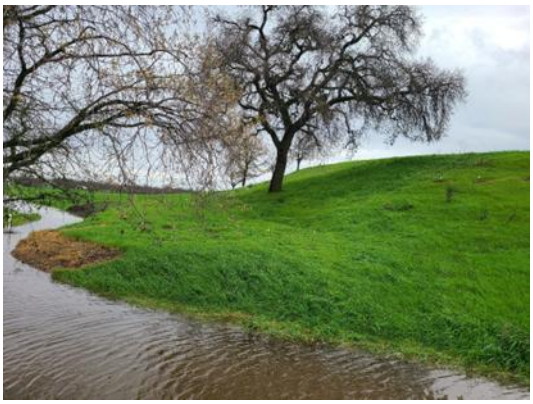
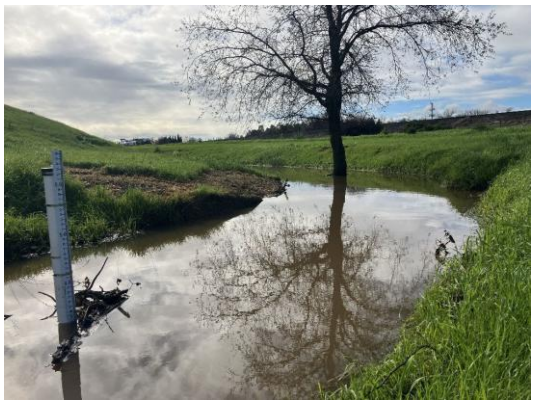
Article from Solano RCD's Conservation Quarterly – February 2026:

Groundwater recharge pilot projects across Solano County

As part of the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan, Solano RCD is partnering with the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency and engineering consulting firm Luhdorff and Scalmanini to implement groundwater recharge pilot projects across Solano County. The hope is that these projects will not only help groundwater levels, but also serve to attenuate flooding that occurs in various lower parts of our watershed. Solano RCD is leading a project with a rural landowner in Winters to plant native trees and shrubs along a seasonal waterway on their property as well as rushes and sedges near the water. This practice, often referred to as a riparian forest buffer, offers various benefits. Aside from providing shade and shelter for wildlife, it can also help improve water quality by filtering nutrients and sediment from runoff, stabilizing banks and mitigating erosion.

Increasing vegetation on a property is a relatively low-cost, accessible way to keep storm water where it lands, attenuate downstream flooding, and recharge local aquifers. This can be done through cover crops, tree/shrub hedgerows, tree/shrub end caps, and grassed swales or ditches. There are also soil health benefits to increased vegetation. Roots provide pathways for water to flow and infiltrate and they help keep soil in place, preventing loss of nutrient-rich topsoil during the winter. Additionally, living roots promote microbial activity which are key to increasing soil organic matter. A 1% increase in soil organic matter represents 20,000 gallons of water/acre preserved in the soil profile. Generally, practices aimed at improving soil health will help retain water and thus help with groundwater recharge. Groundwater and soil health are two sides of the same coin!





Photos of pilot projects in rural Winters, CA