



How To Create Beaver Dam Analogs (BDA)

The solution to combatting the amount of erosion at a headwater stream is constructing BDAs! Creating a BDA is meant to mimic a beaver dam's capability to slow down the flow of water for longer periods of time in the landscape.

BDAs are a low-tech, cost-effective stream restoration tool that can help restore and maintain fish and wildlife habitat, improve connectivity and complexity of the stream, and support biodiversity conservation.

In April 2024, Howard EcoWorks began creating BDAs at stream restoration sites in partnership with EcoSystem Services (as pictured).



All it takes is a little teamwork, creativity, and being willing to get your hands dirty!

1. Ensure proper permitting is acquired, if applicable.
2. Target key areas along the stream prior to the point of erosion that can help slow the flow of water.
3. Purchase or create your own live stakes to use for BDA stability (plus they may grow into trees in the future!).
4. Gather and use local resources (leaves, stems, dirt, etc.) to fill in the BDA, much like how a Beaver would!
5. Stop and Check: How will the rainwater now flow with your BDA in place? What is your local topography? Make adjustments as needed.
6. Monitor your BDA in the coming months and after big storms to make enhancements, a Beaver's work never stops!



Our Crew can create BDAs for your stream restoration needs!

www.howardecoworks.org | Columbia, MD | (443) 518-7665