

## **Ripple Effect # 57 - Riverbank Slumping**

Do you live along a river? In a town with a river nearby? You may have observed places where the riverbank has shifted, often sliding in a sheet towards the water.

This process, called “slumping,” is going to happen here in the Red River Basin because of our structurally weak soils. But when we add some of our own practices to the weak soil, we can have real problems for property owners, river lovers, and the environment.

So how can we slow riverbank slumping? Here are some rules of thumb:

- Keep existing trees and bushes and plants more of the right kind -- willow, dogwood, or cottonwood are best,
- Do not replace deep-rooted native vegetation with shallow-rooted grasses,
- Avoid saturating soil with over-watering or drain fields,
- Don't add additional weight to the riverbank, such as buildings, landscaping features, or fill.

Following these practices can help protect your property, or the river nearest you – AND the entire Red River watershed.

This Ripple Effect is brought to you by the Red River Basin Commission.