

ROOTS AND EROSION



Root Depth

- 0 -

Kentucky
Bluegrass

- 1 FT.

- 2 FT.

- 3 FT.

- 4 FT.

- 5 FT.

- 6 FT.

- 7 FT.

- 8 FT.

Purple
Coneflower

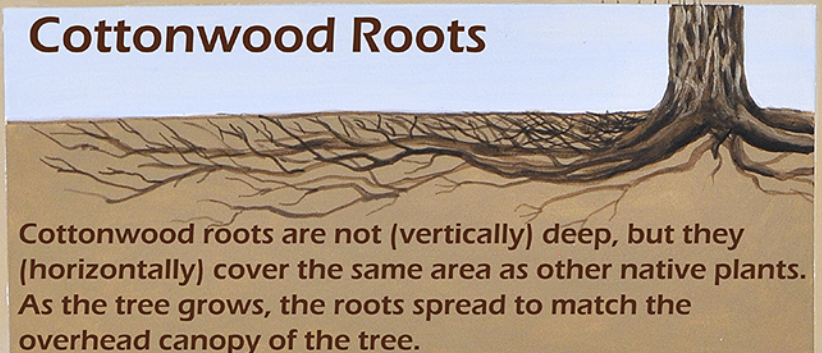
Dogwood

Goldenrod

Big Bluestem

The root system of native plants are deeper, providing for protection against the forces of erosion. A deeper root system also means a larger area from which plants can absorb available water in the soil. Once absorbed, root pressure uses capillary action to emit water into the air as part of transpiration.

Cottonwood Roots



Cottonwood roots are not (vertically) deep, but they (horizontally) cover the same area as other native plants. As the tree grows, the roots spread to match the overhead canopy of the tree.