

# TREES AND BRUSH

## safety hazards on dams

According to the Ohio Dam Safety Program, uncontrolled growth of vegetation can damage dam embankments and concrete structures and make safety inspections difficult.

Under Ohio law, trees and brush should not be permitted on dam embankment surfaces.

Extensive root systems can provide potentially dangerous seepage paths for water.

Trees that fall down can leave large holes in the ground that will weaken the embankment and can lead to dangerous erosion.

Brush hides the embankment surface from visual safety inspections and retards the growth of beneficial grass cover.

Removing trees and woody vegetation are required to safely maintain an earthen embankment dam.



*Fallen trees can leave large holes that weaken the embankment and can lead to erosion.*



*Woody root systems can provide dangerous seepage paths for water.*



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**NATURAL RESOURCES**