

Tips for Getting Started:

- Establish a “no mow” area along your stream bank
- Plant trees, shrubs and long stem grasses in your buffer zone
- Shrubs grow fast and can help create the buffer zone more quickly
- Native grasses, such as Tufted Hairgrass or Switchgrass, help maintain views
- Periodically pick up litter and eliminate the use of insecticides, herbicides and fertilizers
- Combine a buffer with rain gardens, rain barrels and other practices to reduce stormwater runoff!



For more information on water quality and stormwater management go to:

www.stormwaterSMART.org

or contact

Stormwater SMART
2216 W. Meadowview Road
Wilmington Building, Suite 201
Greensboro, NC 27407
Phone (336) 294-4950, Fax (336) 632-0457
email: stormwatersmart@ptrc.org



PIEDMONT TRIAD
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Stormwater SMART Member Governments:
Davidson County, Randolph County, Rockingham County, Archdale, Asheboro, Burlington, Elon, Gibsonville, Graham, Green Level, Haw River, High Point, Lexington, Mebane, Oak Ridge, Summerfield, Randleman, Reidsville, Thomasville & Trinity.

Vegetated Buffers Protect Water Quality



Please protect our waters by maintaining a buffer.



The Problem?

Stormwater includes pollution like fertilizer, pesticides, animal waste, motor oil, and dirt or sediment. We depend on plants like trees, shrubs and grasses to slow down the flow of water so these pollutants are naturally filtered out through the soil. When we remove the vegetation, pollution washes straight into our streams, rivers and lakes.

What Is a Riparian Buffer?

Riparian refers to the area adjacent to a stream, river or lake. A healthy riparian zone contains trees, shrubs and grasses which provide a healthy habitat for fish and wildlife.



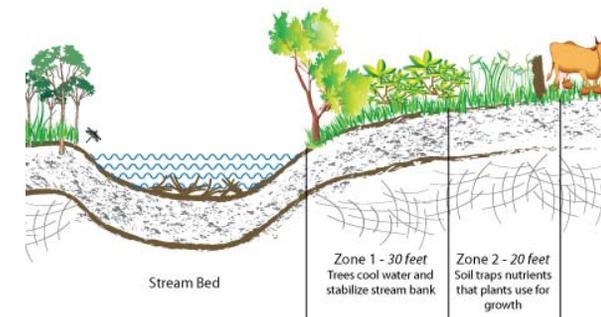
What's the Benefit?

A well established buffer has economic, social and environmental benefits. Not only can buffers add beauty and value to your land, they provide a natural habitat for fish and wildlife, reduce flooding, protect drinking water supplies and help maintain the true value of your property by reducing property loss from erosion. A riparian buffer is the most cost effective way to improve the quality of our water.

Riparian buffers feed, shelter and provide travel paths for more than 95 percent of terrestrial species in North America. In addition, root systems from these plants provide habitat for spawning fish and other species. For more information, please visit www.stormwatersmart.org.

What Can I Do?

- Sit on the porch and watch it grow! The most effective best management practice (BMP) requires no effort and no money.
- Plant native plants. Native plants have deeper roots which secure streambanks preventing erosion. When roots die off, they leave tunnels allowing oxygen and water to infiltrate the ground. This is extra important in the clay soils of the Piedmont Triad.
- Maintain your buffer by watching for gulleys which may transport water untreated directly into the water. A couple minutes with a shovel can make a huge difference!



Strive for a 50 foot buffer. The first 30 feet should be undisturbed. The other 20 feet can be maintained (just limit fertilizer use!).