

## 10 Reasons for Maintaining a Buffer

1. Slow stormwater runoff
2. Prevent erosion
3. Enhance water infiltration to soils
4. Trap sediment
5. Trap fertilizers, pesticides, bacteria, pathogens, heavy metals, and other pollutants
6. Reduce flooding
7. Improve fish habitat
8. Improve wildlife habitat
9. Add beauty and value to your land
10. Provide recreational opportunities



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

[www.stormwaterSMART.org](http://www.stormwaterSMART.org)

or contact

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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.

## Jordan Lake Rules

The Haw River begins north of Kernersville and flows through the Piedmont Triad and eventually into Jordan Lake. Jordan Lake is one of the State's biggest tourist attractions. It also serves as a municipal drinking water source for Cary, Pittsboro and other municipalities in central North Carolina.

Stormwater runoff is difficult to address because it doesn't just come from one place. This means all jurisdictions in the Jordan Lake Watershed are responsible for cleaning up the Lake. As of 2009, all communities in the Haw River Basin are required to reduce nutrient inputs to Jordan Lake. This legislation is known as the Jordan Lake Rules.

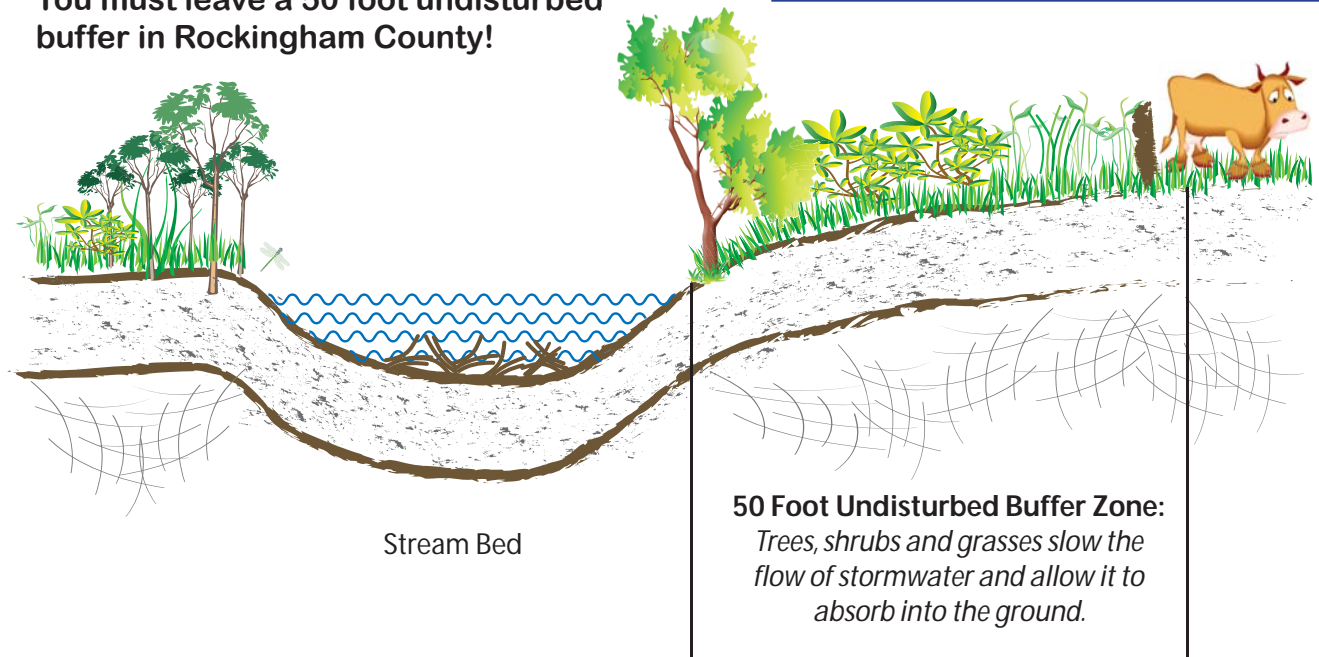
The Jordan Lake Rules require landowners to maintain a 50 foot buffer.

Please note:

**EXISTING DEVELOPMENT IS EXEMPT FROM THESE REGULATIONS!**

If you're considering building on your property, please note:

You must leave a 50 foot undisturbed buffer in Rockingham County!



## 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!