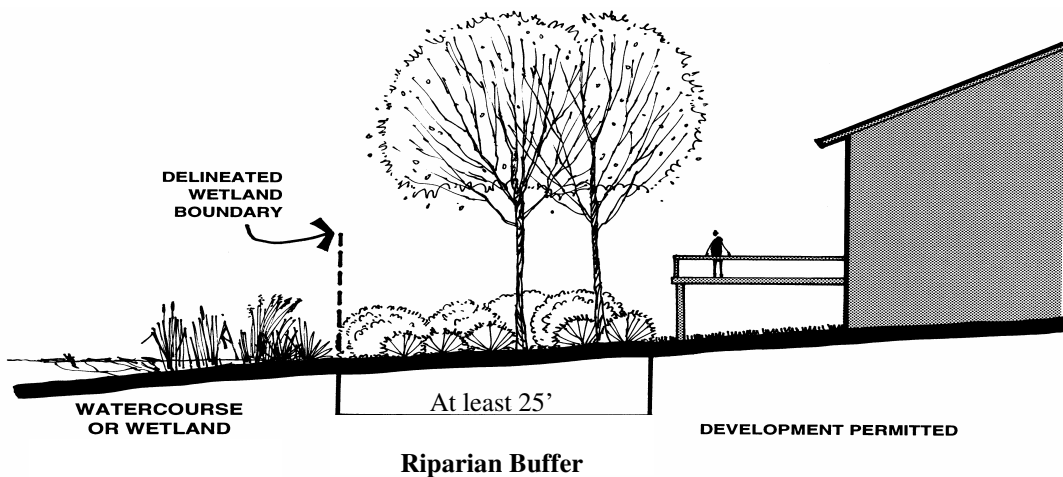


THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE RIPARIAN BUFFERS



A minimum 25 foot buffer width is necessary; however, a wider buffer would provide additional benefit to water quality and wildlife. Simply maintaining the natural vegetation along the shoreline and incorporating native plant species will add considerable benefit.

What are the Benefits of Riparian Buffers?

1. Increase groundwater infiltration
2. Provide cooler water and air temperatures
3. Decrease streambank erosion
4. Filter sediments and pollutants commonly found in runoff
5. Provide floodwater storage
6. Increase wildlife habitat
7. Protect property from erosion
8. Protect water quality



What is a riparian buffer?

Also called a riparian corridor or forested buffer, it is the area of land next to a stream - the stream-banks and floodplain area. Typically, in nature, these areas are forested.

Why protect riparian buffers?

Riparian buffers provide numerous environmental and recreational benefits to streams, groundwater and downstream land areas. All landowners (individuals, businesses and municipalities) should make every effort to preserve riparian buffers and improve them. Existing buffers can be protected through ordinance requirements, through easement agreements or simply through a conscious effort to decrease mowing and maintain trees and shrubs.



For More Information about Water Quality Issues
Please visit

www.swmpc.org/water.asp