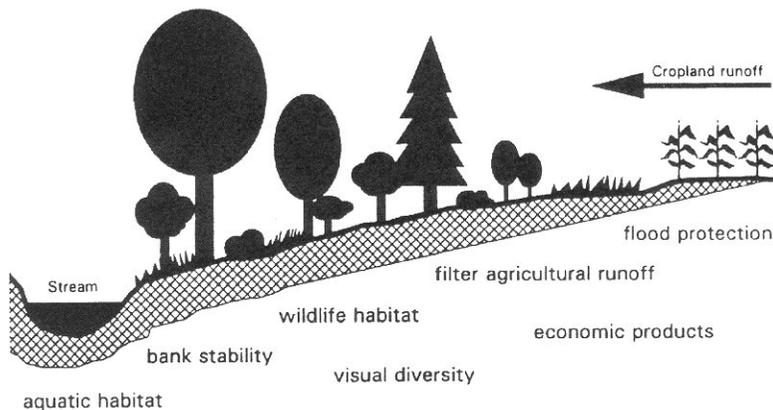


Riparian Forest Buffers

What is a Riparian Forest Buffer?

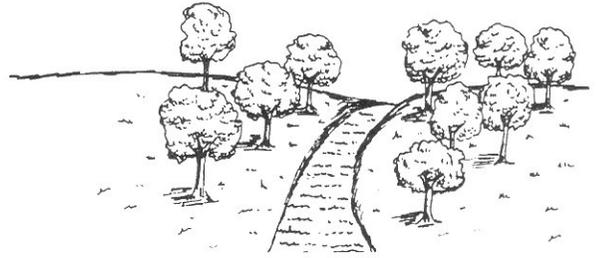
A riparian forest buffer is land along a stream, river, pond or lake that protects the waterway from negative impacts. Riparian buffers filter pollutants, such as pesticides, from surface water runoff. This prevents chemicals from contaminating our groundwater.

Establishing riparian buffers helps to reduce pollution and sustain water quality!



Riparian Buffers are Beneficial to Wildlife & People

By creating many feeding and nesting areas, riparian buffers provide wildlife with the three things they need to survive: food, shelter, and water. Forest buffers are also very beneficial to people. Riparian buffers not only add to the aesthetic value of an area, they also *provide clean drinking water for use in homes!*



* Graphic courtesy of the USDA Forest Service

What Does a Buffer Do?

In addition to keeping our groundwater clean, riparian buffers also help to prevent flooding. The roots of the trees help stabilize the streambanks, which prevents erosion, and keeps the soil from becoming compacted. This allows more water to filter into the ground.

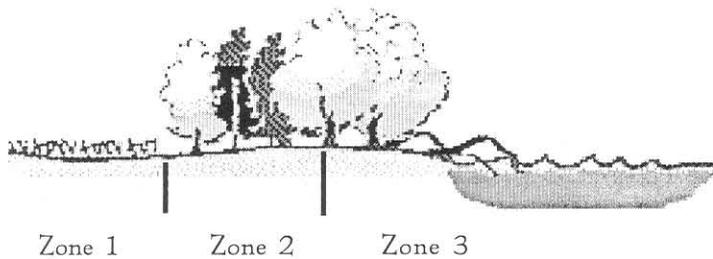
Riparian buffers recharge aquifers and prevent flooding!



* Graphic from Project Learning Tree Activity. For more information about Project Learning Tree, contact the Forest Resource Education Center.

Healthy Forests = Healthy Watersheds

A Three-Zone Buffer is the Most Beneficial for Reducing Point & Non-Point Source Pollution



**Graph courtesy of the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service*

Zone 1: Grass Strips

Grass strips help to increase water absorption into the ground.

Zone 2: Managed Forest

The trees in the managed forest remove contaminants from surface water runoff, and recharge the aquifer.

Zone 3: Undisturbed Forest

The roots of the plants in this zone stabilize the streambanks, which prevents erosion and flooding. The trees also provide shade which helps to maintain the low water temperatures that are essential to many aquatic organisms.

Common Tree Species Found in Riparian Forest Buffers

Many of the trees that grow in riparian forests also grow very well in urban communities. These trees have very shallow root systems, and can adapt to a variety of conditions. Some of these species include: Atlantic white-cedar, River birch, Green ash, Tulip poplar, Red maple, Black gum, Sycamore, Sweet gum, Pin oak, Spicebush, Buttonbush, and many Willow species.

To purchase tree seedlings for a riparian planting, or for information about federal or state cost-share funding that may be available for riparian plantings, contact the NJ Forest Service.

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This project is in cooperation with the
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and the
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