

RIPARIAN BUFFER

Riparian buffers are strips of land on stream edges with maintained vegetation that enhance stream bank stability and improve water quality.



UPPER DELAWARE
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

BENEFITS:

- Reduces stream bank erosion and increases bank stabilization
- Protects productive land stream encroachment
- Improves stream health
- Reduces risk of flooding from flash storms
- Increases property value

DESCRIPTION

Riparian buffers are strips of land directly adjacent to a stream, which can contain both woody (shrubs and trees) and vegetative (grasses and perennials) plants. Plant roots help stabilize stream banks, reduce stormwater flow rate, and enhance adsorption of excess water. Vegetative buffers filter runoff, and provide shade to lower stream temperatures, improving stream health, and fish habitat.

TECH NOTES

- Work with your local Conservation District to establish a site specific design and plan.
- Buffers can be designed as grass filters, forest buffers, or a combination of both, depending on site specific considerations.
- The minimum width of buffer from stream bank is 35 feet.
- This practice pairs with exclusionary fencing.

MAINTENANCE

- Planting of desired native vegetation.
- Annual mowing and maintenance required.
- Exclude livestock except for flash grazing

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Eroded stream bank



Grassed enclosed buffer