

Riparian Buffers

Do's and Don'ts

Do

Plant diverse species of trees and shrubs (non-invasive and native vegetation) along riparian zones at least up to 30 feet wide

Do

Leave naturally fallen branches and leaves in place

Do

Compost or properly discard grass clippings and trimmings from trees and bushes

Do

Remove discarded materials and garbage from riparian zones

Do

Periodically observe stream channel and banks for signs of erosion and habitat degradation

Do

Report observations of erosion and degradation to authorized officials

Do

Preserve natural topography

Do

Limit or restrict the use of inorganic and organic chemicals

Do

Use non-phosphate detergents

Do

Limit amount of fertilizers coming into the stream

Don't

Cut trees, bushes and other vegetation along riparian corridor

Don't

Mow lawns directly to the water's edge

Don't

Dump yard clippings onto stream banks - this will suppress native vegetation and lead to erosion

Don't

Dump garbage or discard refuse in riparian zones

Don't

Excavate or modify stream channel and banks without an environmental impact assessment

Don't

Build on more than 10% of your property with impervious surfaces (asphalt, paving, etc.)

Don't

Increase the slope of your property

Don't

Use chemicals and fertilizers prior to rain or storm events

Don't

Use phosphates excessively

Don't

Water your lawn if it is green