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