



# BUFFER ZONE BEST PRACTICES

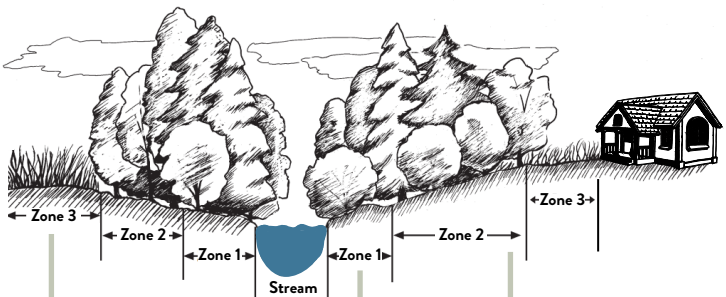
Urban landscapes have hard surfaces such as roads and buildings that intensify stormwater runoff and impact water quality. Buffer zones along rivers, lakes, and streams serve as last lines of defense against pollution, erosion, and flooding — safeguarding our community and environment.

Property owners are responsible for maintenance to prevent water quality and flooding problems. We advise all waterfront property owners to follow this guide for managing riparian buffer zones.

## WHAT IS A BUFFER?

Riparian buffer zones are where rivers, lakes, and streams meet land. Buffer zones that have native trees and plants improve water quality by:

- Slowing runoff down & recharging groundwater
- Reducing sediment loss and erosion
- Providing shade and moderating temperatures
- Providing aquatic, wildlife & plant habitat
- Filtering out stormwater pollutants



### ZONE 3

Grass filter strip or small plants; few restrictions; yard waste allowed

### ZONE 1

Native, water-loving species; little to no disturbance; foot paths allowed

### ZONE 2

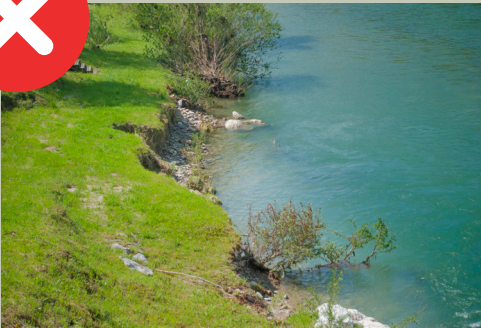
Maintained forest with native species; restricted uses; bike paths allowed

\*Widths vary for each zone.

# HOW TO MAINTAIN BUFFERS



- Remove invasive species
- Check buffer zones after significant storm events to address problems such as erosion
- Mow Zone 3 at least three times per year for weed control
- Prune only for sight lines and be sure to leave a good mix of trees and understory plants



- Zones 1 & 2 should never be mown or clear-cut
- Prune lightly as needed to create an access path or sight line



***Land Development Division***

301 UNIVERSITY RIDGE SUITE 3900 GREENVILLE, SC 29601

PHONE (864) 467-4610 | FAX (864) 467-7518

[GREENVILLECOUNTY.ORG/LAND\\_DEVELOPMENT](http://GREENVILLECOUNTY.ORG/LAND_DEVELOPMENT)