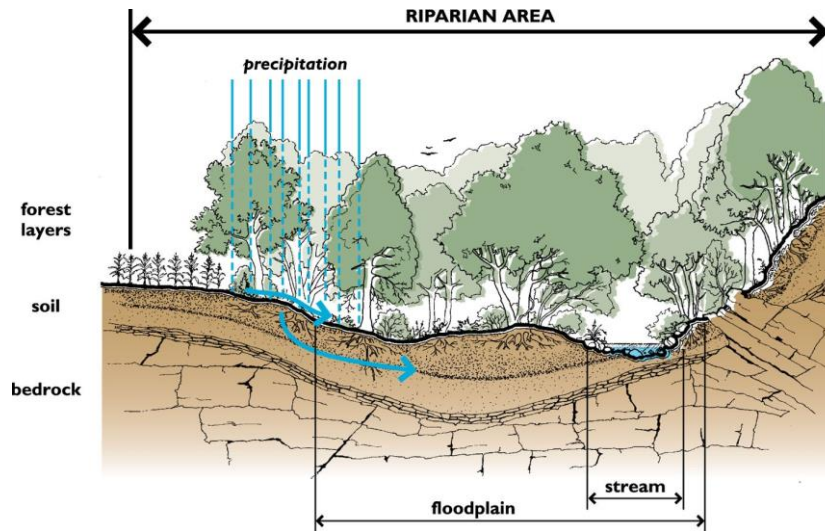


Five Principles of Riparian Forest Buffer Protection



The following Principles should be considered for reduction or mitigation of impacts to stream quality in any given watershed.

Better than Minimum Principles

1. Long-term Protection: Dedication of conservation easement to municipality or land trust, or, dedication of land in fee to municipality or land trust.
2. Reforestation: Active planting of unforested riparian buffer zones. Use locally native species of floodplain trees (sycamore, ash, pin oak, black gum, hickory).
3. Limited Use: Walking trail, selective timber harvest, use stormwater Best Management Practices: level spreader berms, wet meadows, vegetated swales, or existing hayfield or pasture.
4. Riparian Forest Buffer Initiatives: Establish Initiatives to establish voluntary buffer projects on private and public lands. Work with partnerships of Environmental Advisory Councils, conservation groups, conservation districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service, sewer authorities, water suppliers.
5. Lawn Care: Don't mow up to streambanks or wetlands, reduce or eliminate lawn chemicals and watering, consider replacing lawn with meadow, trees, or gardens (www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat), direct roof and driveway runoff to a stone recharge bed or a rain garden.

Prepared by: Natural Lands Trust