

BENEFITS OF RIPARIAN BUFFERS

- They protect property from eroding away
- They provide flood control
- They absorb noise from waterfront activities
- They provide privacy
- They take up nutrients
- They filter sediment from runoff
- They control water temperature
- They provide wildlife food and habitat
- They provide recreational value such as fishing and bird watching



For more information on the Neuse and Tar-Pam Buffer Rules please contact the Division of Water Quality staff:

DENR Washington Regional Office
943 Washington Square Mall
Washington, NC 27889
252-946-6481

DENR Wilmington Regional Office
127 N Cardinal Drive Extension
Wilmington, NC 28405
910-796-7215

DENR Raleigh Regional Office
3800 Barrett Drive, Suite 101
Raleigh, NC 27699
919-571-4700

The rules can be viewed or downloaded from the DWQ website :
[Http://h2o.enr.nc.us/nps/tarp.htm](http://h2o.enr.nc.us/nps/tarp.htm)

The Neuse and Tar-Pamlico Buffer Rules may not be the only regulations that apply to your property. For more information you can contact the following agencies at the DENR Regional Offices:

Division of Water Quality
Division of Coastal Management
US Army Corp of Engineers



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For Prospective
Landowners

Understanding Buffer Rules and your Future Property Purchase



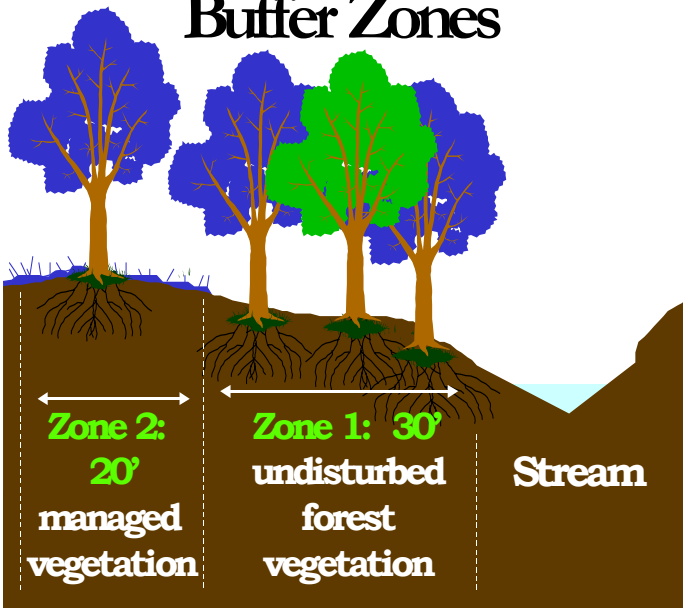
WHAT ARE RIPARIAN BUFFERS?

The word *riparian* means next to the banks of streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries or other waters.

A riparian buffer is a strip of forested or vegetated land bordering a body of water and is important in protecting water quality. A buffer may be any combination of shrubs, herbs, and native grasses, but the best vegetation for stabilizing streambanks and removing nutrients is deep rooted, woody vegetation.

Riparian buffers are managed as two zones. The zone closest to the water provides streambank and shoreline protection. The outer zone slows and spreads out the flow of water coming from the land, trapping sediment and other pollutants.

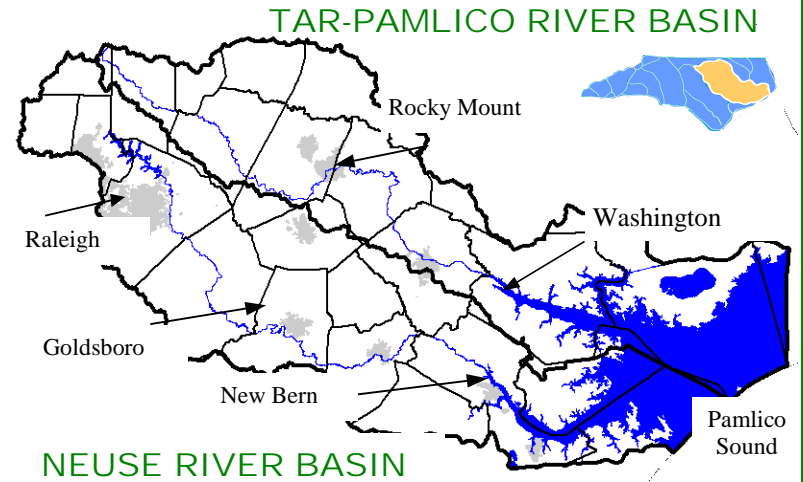
Buffer Zones



The Division of Water Quality's Buffer Protection Rule is a part of the state's nutrient reduction strategy for the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico River Basins. The rule requires protection of existing vegetation in the first 50 feet of riparian area within these basins.

Protect the Buffer? The first 30 feet from the waterbody should be essentially undisturbed. The next 20 feet should be vegetated, however certain uses are allowed.

RIPARIAN BUFFER PROTECTION



Intermittent and perennial streams, lakes, ponds and estuarine waters are

protected by these rules. If you are unsure whether this includes your property, you can obtain a copy of the county soil survey produced by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and a 1:24,000 scale topographic map prepared by the US Geologic Survey. If the surface water is indicated on one or the other source then the buffer rules apply. The Division of Water Quality will make final determinations.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR MAP ASSISTANCE!

IS MY PROPERTY INCLUDED?

You will want to read and understand the rule prior to beginning any activity within the buffer. The following are a few of the allowed activities in the rule.

- Fences if no woody vegetation is removed
- One time fertilizer application to establish replanted vegetation (Ongoing fertilization is not allowed)
- Playground equipment

WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE ALLOWED?

- Removal of poison ivy, poison oak, vines, honeysuckle
- Planting vegetation to enhance the buffer
- Removal of trees that are dead, dying, or diseased. Verified by a registered forester.
- Removal of trees that are in danger of causing damage to existing structures or human life
- Limited pruning of forest vegetation as long as it doesn't compromise the health of the tree