without buffer

Source: Davis Creek Watershed, MI

A riparian buffer is an area of vegetated land that serves as a transition zone between water and land use.

with buffer

Source: Costal Waccamaw Stormwater Education Consortium

www.mywatersheds.org

GLRC MEMBERS:

City of DeWitt
City of East Lansing
City of Grand Ledge
City of Lansing
City of Mason
Delhi Charter Township
Delta Charter Township
DeWitt Charter Township
Lansing Charter Township
Meridian Charter Township
Oneida Charter Township
Windsor Charter Township
DeWitt Public Schools
Lansing Public Schools
Clinton County
Eaton County
Ingham County
Michigan State University

To learn more, please visit our website below.

Greater Lansing Regional Committee For Stormwater Management
www.mywatersheds.org

Contact Information

Cover photo: Otsego Conservation District

April 2010

Riparian Buffers

Protecting our Water Resources

Greater Lansing Regional Committee For Stormwater Management
www.mywatersheds.org

What is a Riparian Buffer?

An area located between local waterways and upland areas. These vegetated land areas provide streamside and aquatic habitat, erosion protection and serve as a natural filter for stormwater runoff.

What are the benefits of a riparian buffer?

- **Reduces polluted runoff.**
- **Stabilizes banks and reduces erosion.**
- **Decreases flood severity.**
- **Provides important habitat areas.**

How do I create a buffer?

- **Plant native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers.**
- **Quit mowing up to the edge, let existing vegetation grow in.**
- **Maintain your buffer a *minimum* of 15 feet* from the edge.**

***be sure to check local ordinances for width requirements and plant restrictions.**

Challenges: **Urban development requires balancing flood protection, water quality protection, and the economic viability of the development.**

Opportunities: **Buffers may offset costs by providing adequate space for providing long-term water quantity and water quality protection. Buffers provide visual diversity on the landscape, wildlife habitat and a sense of connection, and help maintain property values.**