



Buffer Zone Benefits

Property Owner's Guide: BUFFER ZONES

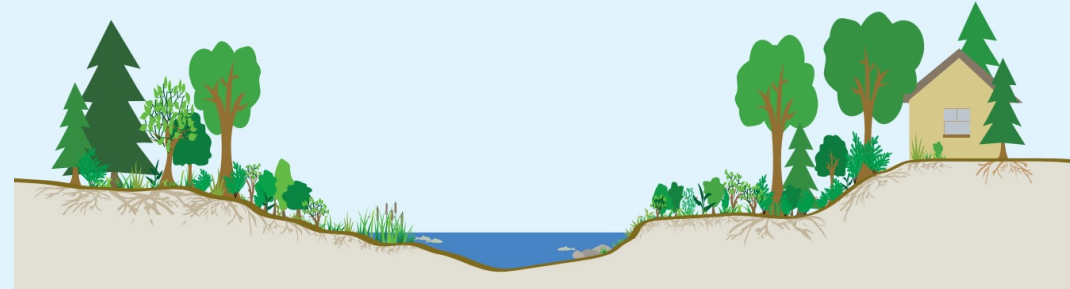
FOR PROPERTY OWNERS:

- Improves scenic and property values
- Reduces land loss due to erosion and protects from winds
- Promotes groundwater recharge and reduces floodwater damage
- Restores important stream functions, enhancing angling opportunities
- Improves water quality for swimming and recreation

FOR AQUATIC HABITAT:

- Reduces sediment, pollutant, and excess nutrient input to streams by filtration & absorption
- Helps to shade, cool, and regulate stream water temperature for fish
- Provides habitat and travel corridors for wildlife
- Increases crop yield by reducing wind and top soil erosion
- Offers a diverse area for wildlife

THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTHY BUFFER ZONES



The **Buffer Zone** is the strip of land adjacent to a wetland or watercourse which acts as a transition zone between aquatic and terrestrial environments.

The buffer zone should be at least 15 meters wide on either side of the water and ideally composed of a mix of native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/elj_planconsid.pdf

APPLY FOR A PERMIT:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/apply-for-a-watercourse-wetland-and-buffer-zone-activity-permit>

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS CONTACT:

Wheatley River Improvement Group or Local Watershed Group
manager@wheatleyriver.ca, 902-963-3198

You can help protect and enhance these important natural areas

- Reduce your mowed lawn area and let native vegetation grow in
- Use biodegradable and phosphate-free products instead of harmful pesticides and chemicals
- Plant only native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and deep-rooted grasses
- Install rain barrels to control storm water runoff
- Pick up pet wastes
- Regularly empty and maintain your septic tank and septic drain field
- Remove invasive species and only prune vegetation for maintenance purposes

Plan before you plant

Riparian areas are more effective when they are composed of dense and mixed vegetation. Plants adapted to local climate and soil conditions tend to be easier to maintain because they require less water and no pesticides. Before undertaking any planting activity in a riparian area, it is important to understand the conditions of that area.

The type of vegetation chosen for planting depends on:

- High-water line
- Type of soil
- Stability of the streambank
- Many other considerations

In PEI, you must obtain a permit to modify an area located within 15 meters of the water. ***We can help you choose the right plants for your property!***

BUFFER ZONE: REQUIRES PERMIT FOR MANY ALTERATIONS

