

Indian-Kentuck Watershed News

What is a Riparian Buffer?

A vegetated area (a buffer strip) near a stream, usually forested, which helps shade a partially protect the stream from the impact of adjacent land use.

Why Riparian Buffers are Important

Many people have a growing concern about water quality issues, Riparian buffers are one of the most important practices that you can use to help control non-point pollution and improve water quality.

Riparian buffers are the grasses, grass-like, forbs, shrubs, trees or other vegetation growing along streams. These plants control erosion and help filter and keep water clean.

Crop fields should not be planted right up to a stream's edge where the soil is generally more fragile and subject to erosion. Shrubs, trees and other vegetation protect the stream from pollutants and runoff. These absorb excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus from farm and livestock operations.

Plants of riparian buffers also protect the stream banks from erosion by providing a protective barrier against water, which can weaken and wash away bank material.

In addition to protecting water and soil, riparian buffers provide important habitat for aquatic and wildlife and also fish habitat.

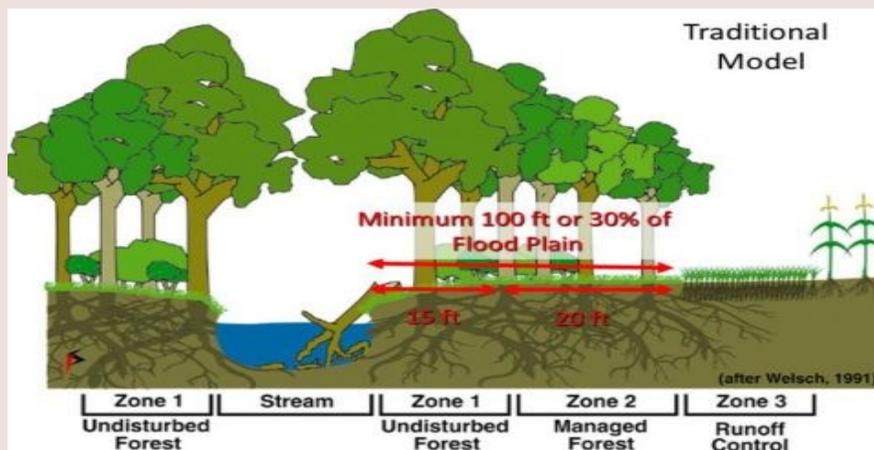
What is Non-Point Source Pollution?

Harmful substance that are carried by rain and snow moving over and through the earth that end up in groundwater, rivers, lake, or the ocean. These substance come from various sources and can be natural or man-made. They are called non-point source (nps) because instead of being dumped directly from a house or factory into a body of water, the pollutant is diluted and transported by the natural cycle of precipitation.

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Different vegetation forms occur in the various riparian planting zones as a result of different water and flood conditions. Not all streams will have all riparian planting zones present. Refer to the drawing to help you determine where to plant riparian species in relation to the water line.



Information for this publication was taken from http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/internet/FSE_DOCUMENT/nrcs144p2_043594.pdf

Things have been in full swing with the Indian-Kentuck Watershed! Already, lots of landowners are starting to implement best management practices or have finished theirs. Cover crops, HUAP, and forage and biomass planting have been the most common implemented BMPs.

The amount of \$236,749.24 has been allocated from the total \$225,000 IDEM has granted thus far. This leaves \$11,749.24 left.

There is still a waiting list, so if you are interested please contact your local conservationist.

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