

To learn more about vegetated streamside buffers, visit us online:

Knoxcounty.org/Stormwater



The Knox County Strong Streams Program offers various workshops & presentations to the public at no charge. Contact us today to schedule a speaker for your group!

Contact Us:
Knox County Stormwater
205 W. Baxter Ave.
Knoxville, TN 37917
Stormwater@knoxcounty.org
(865) 215-5540
Knoxcounty.org/Stormwater
[@StrongStreams](https://www.instagram.com/StrongStreams)



20 Benefits of Stream Buffers:

- 1) Effective flood control
- 2) Protection from streambank erosion
- 3) Increases property values
- 4) Increases pollutant removal
- 5) Provides food & habitat for wildlife
- 6) Provides oxygen & cooling for aquatic life
- 7) Protects associated wetlands
- 8) Reduces watershed imperviousness
- 9) Reduces small drainage problems & standing water
- 10) Allows stream to meander without damaging surrounding properties
- 11) Foundation for greenways
- 12) Protection of steep slopes from development
- 13) Preserves important habitat for terrestrial species
- 14) Provides wildlife corridors
- 15) Essential habitat for amphibians
- 16) Fewer barriers to fish migration
- 17) Provides space for stormwater ponds during and after development
- 18) Allows for future restoration events, efforts
- 19) Improves performance of septic systems, where present
- 20) Mitigates stream warming from upstream and downstream heat sources



VEGETATED STREAMSIDE BUFFERS

Benefits & Incentives



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What is a Buffer?

A buffer (or riparian buffer) is an area of land next to a stream or river that contains a mix of trees, shrubs, grasses & wildflowers. This area of land “buffers” the waterway from pollutants in stormwater runoff from entering into the stream or river.

What are some benefits to planting a buffer?

- Buffers can save landowners time & money
- Buffers are beautiful!
- Buffers help the environment



Buffers attract songbirds and other desirable wildlife.

Buffers save time & money

Reduce the amount of time & money you spend mowing your lawn by leaving as much space as possible between the stream and a mowed area. Whether it is 5 or 100 feet, the more land you allow to grow up naturally, the more time you have to do other things.

“One large tree can capture and filter up to 36,500 gallons of water per year”

- AmericanForests.org

Mowing up to the streambank can encourage erosion, bank failure and land loss. ***The roots of native plants will grow deep and hold the stream bank in place, even in heavy rain events.***

A mature tree can absorb thousands of gallons of water a year. Buffers can help to reduce standing water and prevent mosquito breeding grounds.



Buffers are beautiful!

When managed to control invasive species and encourage native plants to grow, buffers can take on the appearance of a natural meadow, grassland or managed forest.

Buffers help the environment

Vegetation shades the creek, cooling and providing oxygen to fish and other aquatic species. Native plants also provide both habitat and food for desirable wildlife like hummingbirds, butterflies, wood ducks, deer and songbirds.



BEFORE



AFTER

Beaver Creek Streambank & Buffer Restoration