Protection Guidelines

D.C. Environmental Management Council

Towns must determine which waterway corridors are best suited for trails, wildlife routes, or simply aesthetic and water quality buffers.

- Maintain a minimum 60-foot vegetative filter along the stream corridor. Increase widths when:
  - soils are gravelly, sandy, and well drained, or have low phosphorus absorption capacity;
  - slopes are steeper (sometimes even 5 percent);
  - adjacent to sensitive wetlands; or
  - vegetation lacks forest species or grassy strip.
- When possible, implement a three zone buffer design (15 ft. mature tree edge; 60 ft. strip managed trees and shrubs; 20 ft. grass strip) to remove nutrients, sediment, animal-derived organic matter, and pesticides from surface runoff.*
- Establish 100-300 foot buffer when planning for wildlife corridors or to set back from septic systems, manure concentrations, or other potential water contaminants.
- Use a wide variety of native trees, shrubs, and plant species.
- Choose species which are tolerant of flooding.
- Prevent channelized storm water flow into the buffer.

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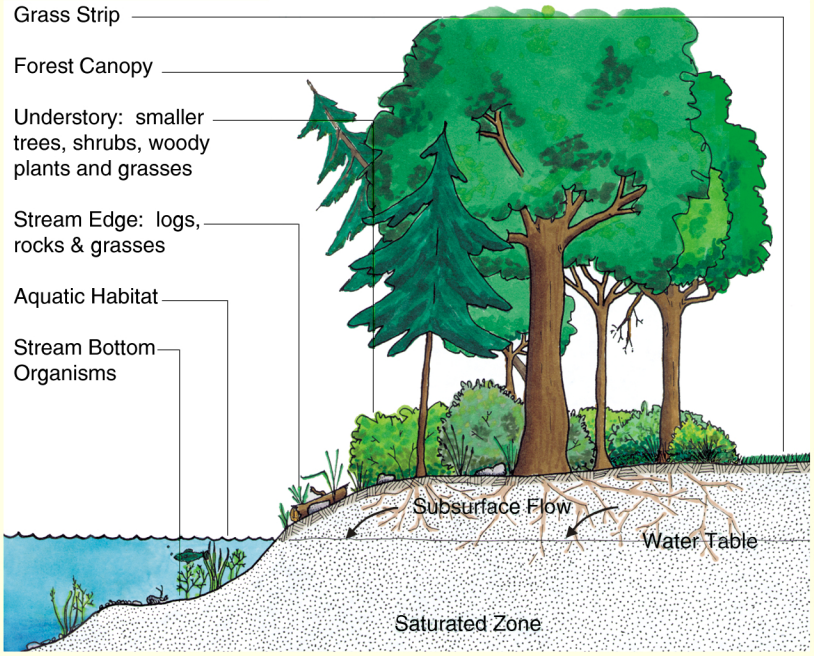

Protected stream corridors should include large trees near the stream's edge to shade the water, maintaining dissolved oxygen for successful fish habitats.

Sources:

R.L. Sneider, *Streamside Protection--Why Bother,* Cornell Cooperative Extension, 1998.

R.L. Sneider, *Streamside Management--Do's and Don't's,* Cornell Cooperative Extension, 1998.

Tjaden & Weber, *Riparian Buffer Management, Fact Sheet 733,* Maryland Cooperative Extension, 1998.

*USDA, *Riparian Forest Buffers,* NA-PR-07-91.