

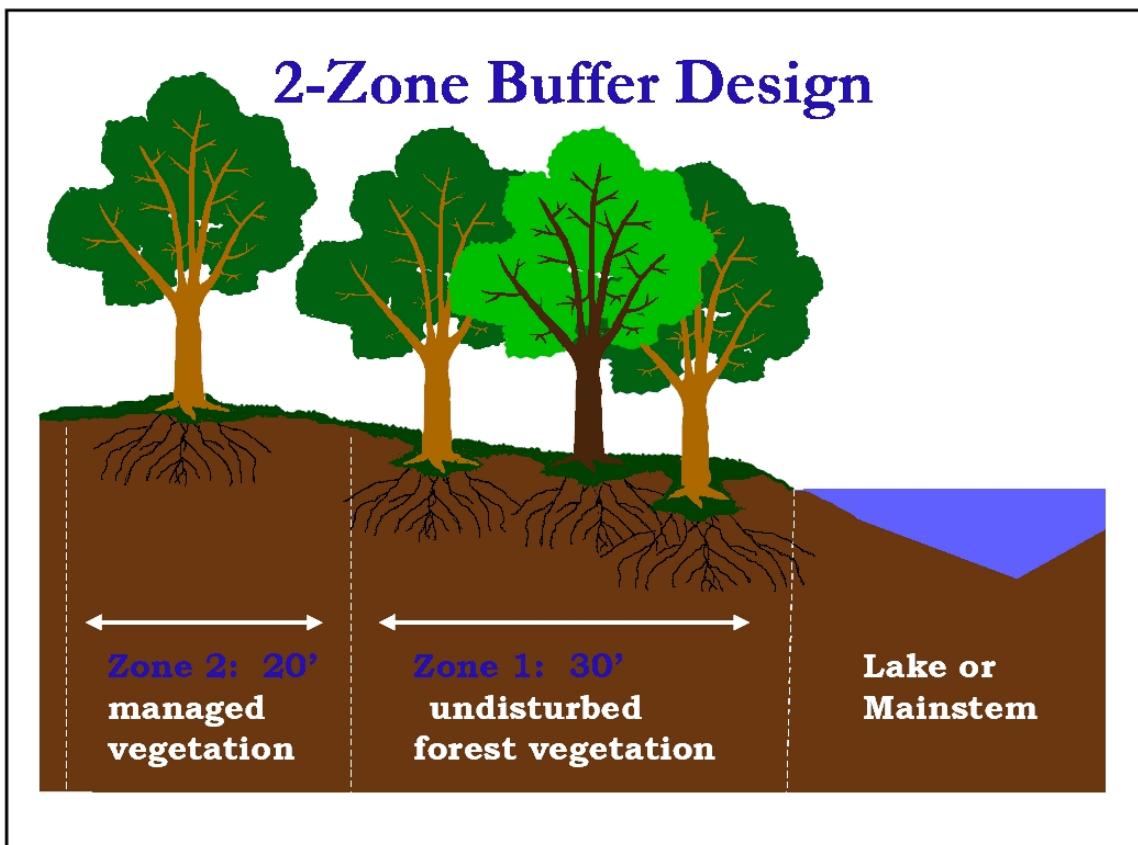
# Streamside Buffer

## **REGULATIONS:**

The Streamside Buffer regulations are enforced in the entire County. A minimum 50-foot vegetative buffer, divided into two zones, or an undisturbed vegetative cover the width of the 100-year flood plain, whichever is greater, is required.

## **2 ZONES:**

- Zone 1 shall be a minimum of 30 feet from the top of the stream bank. It shall remain undisturbed at all times.
- Zone 2 shall be a minimum of 20 feet extending landward from zone 1 and shall be vegetated by grasses, other ground cover, or natural vegetation.



## **ENFORCEMENT:**

Physical on-site inspections will be made to ensure the regulations are being followed properly. It also guarantees the streamside buffers are being maintained in a correct manner. Any infringement of the streamside buffer regulations may result in a zoning ordinance violation and its penalties.

## **Benefits:**

- **They filter runoff.** Rainfall can be slowed down, which helps settle out sediment and some other pollutants before they reach the waterways and drinking water sources.
- **They provide flood control.** Buffers soak up stormwater like a sponge and release it slowly minimizing flooding.
- **They provide wildlife food and habitat.** Plants in the buffer provide food for wildlife. Sticks and branches cover fish in the streams. Trees and plants also provide shelter and a diverse habitat for animals.
- **They control erosion.** The prevalent root systems of trees and plants hold the soil in place.
- **They moderate water temperature.** The trees and leaf awnings provide shade for the streams. This keeps water temperatures cooler so they hold more dissolved oxygen used by aquatic species.
- **They protect property.** The vegetated buffers defer human development and keep it at a safe distance. This also helps control erosion to help prevent loss of land.