

## **Stream Buffers**

### **What is a stream buffer?**

A stream buffer or “riparian” buffer is the strip of land immediately adjacent to the stream bank to 50-100 feet from the stream. This area is one of the most important defenses against stormwater pollution. Regulations restrict development and clearing in this area so that the trees and vegetation can help filter stormwater pollution prior to it entering the stream.

### **What is allowed in a stream buffer?**

The NC Division of Water Quality regulates what activities are allowed within a stream buffer. There are 2 zones of protection. Zone 1 consist of the 30 feet closest to the stream and this area is to be left “undisturbed”. Zone 2 consist of 30-50 feet from the stream and this area may be graded so long as it is revegetated and no building is allowed.