

# Riparian Buffers



## What are Riparian Buffers?

A Riparian Buffer is the strip of natural vegetation along the bank of a stream, lake, or other water body that separates the water body from developed areas



## What are their benefits?

- Provides a food source and habitat for aquatic life.
- Stabilizes stream banks and reduces erosion.
- Filters pollutants such as sediment, fertilizers, oils, and pet waste from stormwater runoff.
- Reduces the impacts of flooding.
- Preserve the quality of our drinking water by filtering out pollutants.

## How can you protect buffer zones?

- Never mow to the edge of a stream or lake; let the buffer develop naturally.
- Don't dump any waste into the stream, including yard wastes.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly in your yard and not at all within the buffer.
- Keep the water body clean by removing trash.
- Plant only native vegetation within the buffer.



Before

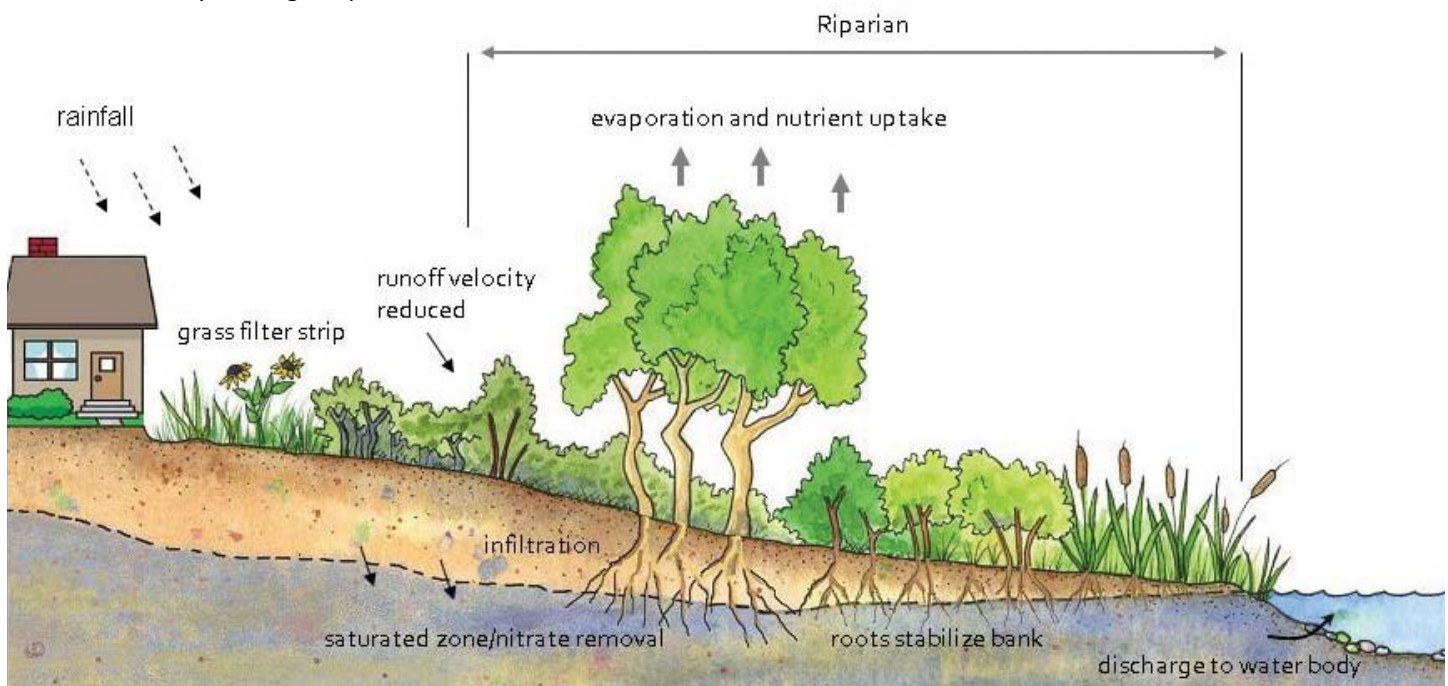


After

A section of Ralston Branch in Franklin before and after riparian restoration

## How to Develop and Maintain your Buffer

Visit the [Tennessee Urban Riparian Buffer Handbook](#) for more information on the development and maintenance required for urban riparian buffers.



For more information or further questions, contact the City of Franklin Stormwater Management at (615)-791-3218.