

Benefits of Riparian Buffers

Reduce:

1. Nitrogen, phosphorus, pesticides, organic chemicals, pathogens, algae
2. Ecological disturbance
3. Human disturbance
4. Erosion (stream bank and upland)
5. Soil loss
6. Flood height
7. Runoff velocity
8. Property damage due to flooding or storm events

Improve:

1. Connectivity and exchange of surface water and groundwater between rivers and upland areas
2. Aquatic habitat
3. Stream and groundwater quality
4. Microclimate control (water temperature and light conditions)

Increase:

1. Infiltration rate and water storage
2. Stream channel roughness
3. Nutrient uptake rate
4. Biodiversity
5. Wildlife habitat (birds abundance, etc.)
6. Income potential (e.g. timber harvesting, recreational and cultural services)
7. Home price