

It's OUR water, keep it clean!



Friends of Mat-Su is working with citizens
to advocate for healthy watersheds



Feed your landscape, not your water
If you need to fertilize, choose low or **NO**
phosphorus fertilizers.

**Keep pet waste
out of the water**
Scoop it up. Clean
up after your pets.



Be septic system savvy!
Keep your system working by pumping and
maintaining it to prevent leaks into the water.

Protect fish and wildlife with buffers
Native vegetation or
landscaping designed to
support a healthy shoreline—
it's a pollution filter.



WHAT YOU CAN DO...

Maintain healthy shorelines and riparian habitat by preserving natural vegetation buffers or through landscape techniques that mimic natural shorelines. Include a minimum 75 ft. wide buffer of continuous, undisturbed vegetation along at least 50% of the shoreline or stream bank.

WHY BUFFERS?

- Provide space for overflow, reducing water damage and preventing flooding of septic systems
- Improve water quality by filtering storm and surface water through vegetation roots and soil thus removing pollutants and sediments
- Create green space for wildlife corridors and public recreational use
- Regulate water temperatures to provide healthy habitat for fish and other aquatic species.

ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF BUFFER AREAS:

- Protect valuable habitats essential for wildlife including healthy commercial and recreational fisheries
- Reduce spending on storm water control and watershed restoration programs
- Attract “clean” residential and commercial development which then increases overall property tax revenues
- Provide open space and places for exploration, education and community trail systems

OTHER STRATEGIES THAT HELP KEEP WATER CLEAN:

- Minimize impervious surfaces on or near shorelines to a maximum of 25% of lot area and minimize as much as possible within 75 ft. of the water's edge.
- Avoid adding sand or fill material to shore areas, stream banks, or wetland areas.
- Keep septic systems (and outhouses) 100 ft. from water bodies and maintain systems in good working order.
- Consider reducing lawn size, limiting fertilizer use and keeping or planting native species.
- Keep outbuildings, driveways, livestock or dog yards, compost piles and vehicle storage at least 75 ft. from the water's edge.
- Support efforts to establish buffers and green corridors along waterways in your neighborhood and community!



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Friends of Mat-Su

Provides land use information, advocates for borough wide planning, promotes citizen involvement and offers tools and support to develop a healthy and vibrant community.

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