

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Establishing a riparian buffer can be easy and inexpensive. Here are some tips you can use to help get started:

- Establish a no-mow (buffer strip) area within 15 feet of the stream. Mowing height should be 3 inches or greater on the rest of the lawn.
- Purchase a wildflower seed or native plant mix and spread it along the streambank of your property.
- Plant native trees and shrubs to provide additional shade and habitat.
- Do not stockpile compost or soil near streambanks.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Bloomfield Township Water & Sewer Department  
[www.bloomfieldtwp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org)  
(248) 433-7731

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
[www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq)  
(734) 953-8905

Michigan State University Oakland County Extension  
[www.msue.msu.edu](http://www.msue.msu.edu)  
(248) 858-0902

Southeast Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA)  
[www.socwa.org](http://www.socwa.org)  
(248) 288-5150

Our Water. Our Future. Ours to Protect.  
[www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org)

Bloomfield Township  
4200 Telegraph  
P.O. Box 489  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0489



## *Helpful Suggestions: Preserving Waterfront Property*

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*Information for the Riparian Landowner*



## RIPARIAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As a riparian landowner, you have the right to enjoy the benefits that the river or stream brings to your property. Here are some of the specifics that you need to know before getting started:

- As the landowner, you may own the streambed adjacent to your property or to the centerline of the stream, but you do not own the water.
- You may draw water for irrigation, but not to an extent that decreases the benefits for other riparian landowners. You cannot grant permission for non-riparian landowners to withdraw water.
- The Township requires a 25-foot setback for any construction adjacent to a waterway or wetland. However, you may perform stabilizing construction measures to the streambanks, but a permit will be required by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.
- Government agencies are not responsible for stream maintenance, unless legally dedicated for use, such as a county drain.
- Bloomfield Township's Fertilizer Ordinance prohibits application of fertilizers within 25 feet of the stream.



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## THE IMPORTANCE OF RIPARIAN BUFFERS

*What is a Riparian Buffer?*

- A riparian buffer is an area of vegetated land that serves as a transition zone between water and land use.

*What are the benefits of riparian buffers?*

- Minimizes erosion and reduces sedimentation (saves land) by stabilizing streambanks.
- Serves as a filter for pollutants like pet waste, excess fertilizer and sediments from stormwater before it enters the stream.
- Provides habitat for wildlife and shade to the stream.
- Restores aesthetics by giving the river a natural appearance.
- Enhances the recreational value of the river by improving water quality and increasing the diversity of aquatic and wildlife habitats.

**R**iparian: An area located between local waterways and upland areas. These areas provide streamside and aquatic habitat, erosion protection and serve as a natural filter for runoff.

For additional information on riparian rights, please visit the Township website at [www.bloomfieldtwp.org](http://www.bloomfieldtwp.org).

[Comments or Questions?](#)

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