



Delaware River
WATERSHED

A plate's edge helps keep the table clean. Buffer strips help keep our water clean.

A buffer strip is a band of grass, trees or other permanent vegetation located immediately adjacent to streams, lakes or wetlands. Buffer strips keep water clean by intercepting and filtering out undesirable contaminants in runoff. Water pollution reduction can be as high as 90%. The root systems of buffer vegetation also stabilize stream banks and reduce sediment that winds up in lakes and ponds by holding soils in place during high stream flows.

Buffer strips also provide valuable wildlife habitat. Winter cover, nesting sites for birds, forage for deer and other wildlife, and nectar and pollen sources for pollinating insects are provided by buffer vegetation.

Buffers can provide profitability for agricultural producers too. USDA programs and incentives offered by the State of Kansas can make planting buffer strips as profitable as raising crops along streams and ponds. Strips as narrow as 30 feet and as wide as 120 feet may be eligible for these programs. Buffers can also be planted on your own.

So do something that keeps our water clean and that is good for wildlife, the land and your bottom line. Plant a buffer strip near a stream, ditch or other body of water on your property. For more information, contact your local County Conservation District office or visit the Delaware River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) website at www.delawareriverwraps.org.