You have the ability to safeguard Chesterfield County’s water resources.

Chesterfield County Riparian Stewardship Program
Lorne Field
Department of Environmental Engineering
Chesterfield County
The Riparian Stewardship Program is a collaborative effort of the Chesterfield County Department of Environmental Engineering and Friends of Chesterfield’s Riverfront. The program was developed with Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Additional Support was provided by Luck Stone Foundation and the Dominion Foundation.
Program Components

• Outreach/workshops
• Demonstration Projects
• Riparian Stewardship Fund – Better Backyard Buffers Initiative
Outreach Efforts

• A previous CBSWG program created a GIS layer that shows all riparian buffers in Chesterfield County.
• The layer produced a list of real estate parcels in the county that border bodies of water.
• Postcards were sent to the owners and occupants of these properties.
Outreach Efforts

Postcards

From Chesterfield to the Chesapeake
Did you know that all waterways in Chesterfield County drain to the Chesapeake Bay? Every creek and lake in the county flows to the James River, which flows to the bay. The actions we take in our backyards have a direct impact on the health of a national treasure!

The Riparian Stewardship Program is sponsored by the Chesterfield County Environmental Engineering Department and Friends of Chesterfield’s Riverfront, with financial support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. For more information about riparian buffers, visit chesterfieldriverfront.org.

Healthy riparian buffers contain a mix of trees, shrubs and native grasses.

Unhealthy buffers lack a mix of trees, shrubs and ground cover.

Riparian buffers separate water from surrounding land uses.

Providing a FIRST CHOICE community through excellence in public service

The views and conclusions in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions and policies of the U.S. Government or the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government or the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
Outreach Efforts

Postcards

Are there any laws or ordinances protecting riparian buffers in Chesterfield County?

In accordance with state law, Chesterfield County has a Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance that requires protective measures for lands known as resource protection areas, or RPAs. An RPA includes a 100-foot-wide buffer adjacent to water bodies such as a perennial (flowing year-round) stream, river or lake. The regulation applies to both private and public property in Chesterfield County.

There are things that can and cannot occur in an RPA. New construction, clear cutting, establishing lawns, and digging or disturbing soils are prohibited in an RPA. With approval, water dependent structures such as docks and piers, trails, and selectively pruning vegetation for reasonable sight lines are permitted. Homeowners must receive approval from the Chesterfield County Environmental Engineering Department before performing any work in an RPA. For more information and to learn if you have an RPA on your property, please call 804-748-1035.

My buffer is in good shape, but I am interested in helping others!

Please consider joining Friends of Chesterfield’s Riverfront as a Riparian Stewardship Program member. More than half of your membership contribution will be directly contributed to the Riparian Stewardship Fund and will go to help other Chesterfield County residents make improvements to their riparian buffers.

The Riparian Stewardship Program is sponsored by the Chesterfield County Environmental Engineering Department and Friends of Chesterfield’s Riverfront, with financial support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The views and conclusions in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions and policies of the U.S. Government or the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government or the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Providing a FIRST CHOICE community through excellence in public service
Outreach Efforts
Brochure
Riparian Stewardship Fund

The Better Backyard Buffers Initiative is part of the Riparian Stewardship Program and is made possible through the Riparian Stewardship Fund, or RSF. The RSF provides businesses, individuals and corporations the opportunity to make donations that provide native trees and shrubs to homeowners interested in enhancing their riparian buffers. Every dollar that is contributed to the Riparian Stewardship Fund goes directly toward improving water quality through healthier buffers.

Acknowledgements

This brochure was made possible through a grant from the Dominion Foundation. The Luck Stone Foundation is the founding sponsor of the Riparian Stewardship Fund. The Riparian Stewardship Program was developed through a Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Contact:
Chesterfield County, Environmental Engineering – 804-748-1035
Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront – 804-796-1703

BBB@chesterfieldrivers.org
Riparian Stewardship Program
— Better Backyard Buffers —

As a riparian landowner, you benefit from enjoying Chesterfield County’s plentiful water resources in your own backyard. The Better Backyard Buffers Initiative provides free native tree and shrub seedlings to Chesterfield County riparian landowners interested in enhancing their buffers. In order to participate, one must meet the following criteria: (1) seedlings received through the fund must be planted adjacent to a waterbody and (2) those who have been served with a notice of violation for an RPA disturbance are not eligible.

Resource Protection Areas
In accordance with state law, Chesterfield County has a Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance that requires protective measures for lands known as resource protection areas, or RPAs. An RPA includes a 100-foot-wide buffer adjacent to water bodies, such as a perennial (flowing year-round) stream, river or lake. The regulation applies to both private and public property in Chesterfield County.

There are things that can and cannot occur in an RPA. New construction, clear-cutting, establishing lawns, and digging or disturbing soils are prohibited in an RPA. With approval, water-dependent structures, such as docks and piers, trails and the selective pruning of vegetation for reasonable sight lines are permitted. Homeowners must receive approval from the Chesterfield County Environmental Engineering Department before performing any work in an RPA. For more information and to learn if you have an RPA on your property, please call 804-748-1035.

How to Get Free Trees and Shrubs!

All residents of Chesterfield County who own land adjacent to a stream, river or lake are encouraged to participate. Fill out this form and return it to Chesterfield County Environmental Engineering by Dec. 1. Seedlings will include a variety of native species and will be available and ready to plant in February. Additional details will be sent to program participants after applications are received, reviewed and approved. A site visit may be necessary to determine planting specifics.

To apply for assistance to the Better Backyard Buffers Initiative, please complete the following information and return the form to:

Chesterfield County Environmental Engineering,
P.O. Box 40, Chesterfield, VA 23832
Attn. Riparian Stewardship Program

How many linear feet of buffer do you want to plant?

0-50 feet 100-150 feet

50-100 feet More than 150 feet

What is the average width of your buffer area?

Do you own one or both sides of the stream?

One Side Both Sides

Name:
Address:

E-mail Address:
Phone:
Riparian Stewardship Fund
Better Backyard Buffers Initiative

- The fund will provide free native plants to riparian landowners in Chesterfield County.
- County businesses and residents are welcome to contribute to the fund.
- Information can be obtained at bbb@chesterfielddrivers.org
Demonstration Projects
Buffer planting – Meadowbrook Apts.
Demonstration Projects
Buffer planting – Palmore Tract
Demonstration Projects

Interpretive signs

What are Riparian Buffers?

A Natural Filter
Riparian Buffers are often called the first line of defense for protecting the health of our waterways. "Riparian" refers to the land along the banks of creeks, rivers and lakes. A healthy riparian buffer contains native trees, shrubs and groundcover that protect water quality and provide habitat for wildlife. These plants filter stormwater runoff that can carry excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, which can lead to depleted oxygen supplies in the waterway. Roots prevent erosion, and the tree canopy shades the stream to regulate water temperature.

From Chesterfield to the Chesapeake
Did you know that the actions you take in your backyard have a direct impact on the health of a national treasure? All waterways in Chesterfield County drain to the Chesapeake Bay. Every creek and lake in the county flows to the James River, which flows to the bay. Healthy riparian buffers in Chesterfield County benefit local water quality and directly contribute to a healthier Chesapeake Bay.

Better Backyard Buffers

There are ways you can enhance buffers on your own property. This site had previously been cleared for agricultural practices. Volunteers restored this buffer in the spring of 2010 by planting a mix of native trees and shrubs as part of the Chesterfield County Riparian Stewardship Program. The program encourages landowners to maintain healthy riparian buffers on their properties and offers guidance and assistance. For more information, e-mail: bbs@chesterfieldvipers.org.

Resource Protection Areas

In accordance with state law, Chesterfield County has a Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance that requires protective measures for lands known as resource protection areas, or RPAs. An RPA includes a 100-foot wide buffer adjacent to water bodies such as a perennial (flowing year-round) stream, river, or lake. The regulation applies to both private and public property in Chesterfield County. This site is not categorized as an RPA under current regulations. For more information or to learn if you have an RPA on your property, call: 804-748-1035.

A mix of native plants adapted to streamside conditions was selected for this site. Look for these examples.

- Sycamore Platanus occidentalis
  - This tree is known for its ability to grow in a variety of tough conditions. In some settings the whole trunk can stretch horizontally to reach for sunlight. It is recognizable by its distinctive patchwork of gray, white, and brown bark.

- Blackjack Oak Quercus marilandica
  - A beauty pioneer, this tree thrives in sandy soils and clay, and it is rugged enough to withstand flooding. Look for a three-lobed leaf that turns scarlet red in the fall.

- Meadow bent Spiraea latifolia
  - This is a medium-size shrub that does well in dry or wet soil. In early autumn it bursts with clusters of white flowers. Butterflies love it!
Homeowner Workshops

An Introduction to Riparian Buffers

Riparian Buffer and Sightline Maintenance

Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Regulations - Resource Protection Areas

You have the ability to safeguard Chesterfield County’s water resources.

Chesterfield County Riparian Stewardship Workshop
July 15, 2010
Lorne Field
Department of Environmental Engineering
Chesterfield County
Information is available at

www.chesterfield.gov

www.chesterfieldriverfront.org