

Buffers can protect the homes, businesses, and environment of Sussex County!

BUFFERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



20%

Percent of Sussex County properties currently within identified flood plains.



2,410

Pounds of nitrogen pollution OVER the healthy limit entering the Inland Bays daily.

Nature can help, but only if we do our part.

Water quality buffers are natural areas, located between wetlands and waterways, and nearby developments. They are used to reduce water pollution, protect wetlands, prevent flooding, maintain fisheries and wildlife habitat, and offer both recreation and scenic beauty. Below is excellent example of a forested buffer between a development and Love Creek.



Protect the TREES!

Forested buffers remove **36%** more nitrogen pollution than grassed buffers.

Trees store more carbon and are essential for eagles, herons, and migratory songbirds, plus reptiles, amphibians and mammals.

Why bother with buffers?



Protect the wetlands that absorb floodwaters and prevent erosion.



Serve as an amenity to new developments by providing attractive and appealing open space.



Control pollution and support healthy populations of fish and shellfish.



Reassure future home and businesses owners that their investments are safe.



Help sustain the local economy by protecting tourism, businesses, and homes.



Maintain Sussex County's unique scenic beauty and protect its wildlife.



DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE
INLAND BAYS
Research. Educate. Restore.

Sussex County CAN Achieve Better Buffers!

Sussex County is proposing more extensive buffers to protect its sensitive wetlands and waterways, reduce flooding and erosion, and reduce pollution. Other counties in Delaware and the states of Maryland and New Jersey are excellent examples of how more extensive buffers are implemented successfully. The proposal is an improvement, but it does not meet science-based recommendations or that of other Delaware counties and nearby states.

Waterway Type	Current Buffer Ordinance	Adequate Buffer Ordinance	Optimum Buffer Ordinance
Tidal Wetlands & Waters	50 feet	80 - 300 feet	150 - 500 feet
Non-tidal Wetlands	0 feet	50 feet	100 feet
Small Streams	0 feet	35 - 80 feet	35 - 150 feet
Large Streams	0 - 50 feet	80 feet	150 feet

Take Action

MEET WITH YOUR COUNCIL PERSON

Talking with your council person is the highest form of advocacy. Schedule a call today!

WRITE YOUR COUNCIL PERSON

A letter can make the difference! Learn how to contact your council person at www.sussexcountyde.gov/county-council

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Learn some tips on how to write an effective letter during the Center's upcoming webinar! Details below:

Time: April 7th at 5:00 pm
 Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/939856210>
 Meeting ID: 939 856 210

Learn More

Resources:

Proposed Ordinance on Water Quality Buffers
<https://sussexcountyde.gov/wetlands-and-buffers-working-group>

DE Center for the Inland Bays Fact Sheets and Information
<https://www.inlandbays.org/?p=19301>

Buffer Information Sessions:

The Center will be organizing two virtual information sessions about the buffer ordinance. Stay tuned for more details on how to participate from home!

Your Voice Matters

Now, more than ever, your voice at meetings and hearings are vital to passing the buffers ordinance. Stay tuned for more announcements on how to get involved!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

For more information on the next public hearing, visit:
www.sussexcountyde.gov/meeting-calendar