Oak Park Conservancy District
Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)
Site Planning and Design Practices (SPD's)

SPD-03.1

Activity: Vegetative Buffers

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS:

Planning: Required

Training: Required

Recommended Personnel Involvement:
Town Engineer
Town Attorney
Developers
IDEM
IDNR

Target Pollutants		
Significant ♦	Partial ◈	Low or Unknown ◊

Sediment ♦ Heavy Metals ◊ Nutrients ◊ Oxygen Demanding Substances ◊ Toxic Materials ◊
Oil& Grease ◊ Bacteria & Viruses ◊ Floatable Materials ◊ Construction Waste ◊

Description

This buffer consist of an undisturbed vegetation that has been enhanced or restored surrounding an area of disturbance or bordering streams, ponds, wetlands or lakes. This buffer filters and infiltrates runoff, reduces storm runoff velocities, protects channel banks, provides flood protection and a number of other enhancing traits.

Suitable Applications

- Areas desiring enhancement to wildlife inhabitant.
- Areas needing temperature regulation and replenishment of wildlife victuals.

Installation Procedures

- Planting can consists of bare root seeding.
- Container grown seeding, grown plants and balled and burlapped plants.
- Soil preparation and maintenance are essential for the establishment of planted vegetation.
- Standard permanent erosion control grasses and legumes may be used in denuded areas for quick stabilization.

Maintenance

- Areas closest to the stream should be maintained with minimum impact.
- Water during periods of drought as well as during the initial year, watering may be necessary in all buffer areas planted or seeded for enhancement.
- It is imperative that the structure of the vegetated stream buffer be maintained.
- If the buffer has been planted, it is suggested that the area be monitored to determine if plant material must be replaced. Provisions for the protection of new plantings from destruction or damage from beavers or other damaging pests should be incorporated into the plan.

Design Criteria

- Buffer width should be selected to permit the zone to perform its intended purpose.
- Slope, hydrology, width and structure shall be considered.