


Oak Park Conservancy District Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) Stormwater Pollution Prevention (SPPs)		SPP-03														
Activity: Buffer Zones																
PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS: Design Life: Life Acreage Needed: N/A Estimated Unit Cost: N/A Monthly Maintenance: Negligible		PV														
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	Target Pollutants															
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Description	Buffer Zones act as shields against pollutants to the drain system or to watercourses by reducing or preventing discharge through vegetation utilization. The utilization protects soils from erosion and slows the velocity of runoff to allow the removal of sediment and other pollutants through filtering and settling.															
Suitable Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Buffer zones are effective along stream banks, grassed dikes, swales, slopes, outlets, level spreaders, and filter strips. ➤ Vegetative buffer strips may be used on any site that will support vegetation. ➤ Buffer strips are particularly effective on flood plains, adjacent to wetlands or other sensitive water bodies, and on steep, unstable slopes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Any area within a buffer required by the local regulations <u>SHALL NOT BE CLEARED</u>. They should be surveyed, flagged, and delineated by a colored temporary construction fence. This should be explained to all construction employees and supervisors. ➤ Utilization or reinforcement of existing vegetation is preferred. However, where improvements are required; sodding, plugging, use of stockpiled vegetation or seeding is acceptable. ➤ Sodding is appropriate if it is part of the no construction activity area required by MDPW for areas that contained turf prior to construction, or for any graded or 															

Activity: Buffer Zones	SPP-03
Suitable Applications (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cleared area that might erode and where a robust plant cover is needed immediately. Examples of locations where sodding may be used include stream banks, grassed dikes, swales, steep slopes, outlets, and level spreaders. Sod along edge of buffer for at least two rows (offset). ➤ Plugging is appropriate for the same areas as sodding, except that a longer establishment period before protection is provided as required. Plugging stabilizes an area by planting clumps of grass material, which then grow and spread to provide complete covers. Plugging is generally used for hybrid grasses that cannot be established from seed. ➤ Vegetative buffer strips may be used at any location on-site that will support vegetation stockpiled from other areas of the site or from seed. Buffer strips are particularly effective on flood plains, adjacent to wetlands or other sensitive water bodies, and on steep, unstable slopes.
Installation Procedures	<p>These systems should be designed by a licensed professional civil engineer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Many of the measures presented in EPP-05: Buffer Zones and SMP-12: Filter Strips are applicable for establishing and maintaining permanent buffer zones.
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inspect buffer zones monthly for the first year after construction and annually thereafter. ➤ Maintenance shall consist of mowing, weeding, and ensuring that the irrigation system is operating properly and as designed to sustain growth. ➤ Inspect buffer strips after significant storm events (10-year storm event or larger). Repair eroded or damaged areas as needed to maintain original purpose and effectiveness of the buffer strip.
Inspection Checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Site conditions will dictate need and design of vegetative buffer strips. Vegetative buffer strips are most economical when there is existing vegetation that can be retained to serve as the buffer strip; otherwise, vegetation will need to be established.