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Selected Internet Resources on Vegetated Buffers

This internet resource list was prepared by Russ Cohen of the Riverways Program, within the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement. Russ has graciously provided comments on the merits of each website. Enjoy your search.

- Riparian Buffers fact sheets, prepared by the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) of VT/NH.: <<http://www.crjc.org/riparianbuffers.htm>> [NOTE: These are excellent. If you don't look at any other reference materials listed in this document, be sure to check out this one.]
- Riparian buffer fact sheets on the functions and values of naturally vegetated riparian areas, prepared by Russ Cohen, Riverways Programs:
<<http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/river/rivfstoc.htm>>
- Impacts of Development on waterways. Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) and the Stormwater Manager's Resource Center (SMRC) <<http://www.cwp.org>> and <<http://www.stormwatercenter.net>> [CWP is one of the country's best resources on protecting streams and watersheds from the adverse impacts of development. CWP's web site provides advice on buffer design as well as model ordinances requiring the establishment and/or retention of vegetated buffers along waterways. It is also worth looking at two articles on CWP's web site entitled "The Architecture of Urban Stream Buffers" and "Invisibility of Stream/Wetland Buffers: Can Their Integrity be Maintained?"].]
- Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act Regulations:
<<http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/ww/files/310cmr10.pdf>> [Note: The section referring to the Riverfront Area resource area is at pp.81-92; the preface discussing the 12/20/02 amendment to the WPA regulations relating to "perennial vs. intermittent" can be found at pp.1-4.]
- "A Homeowner's Guide to Nonpoint Source Pollution", also put out by the Connecticut River Joint Commissions:
<<http://www.crjc.org/pdffiles/homeguide.pdf>>
- Riparian Forest Buffer information from the Chesapeake Bay Program:
<<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/info/forestbuff.cfm>> [NOTE: under the "Publications" section on this page you will find a link to a .pdf version of a 481-page document entitled "Chesapeake Bay Riparian Handbook: A Guide for Establishing & Maintaining Riparian Forest Buffers". An excellent resource, often cited in this manual.]
- "Why Restoring Shoreland Vegetation is Important" [and how to do it] - from Wisconsin Cooperative Extension:
<<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/shoreland/Why2/whyres.htm>>
- Research on Shoreland Systems, from Wisconsin DNR - a wealth of information + hot links to research papers on the value of vegetated shorelines for water quality and other functions:
<<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/research.htm>>



- "Riparian Areas: Functions and Strategies for Management"
<<http://books.nap.edu/books/0309082951/html/index.html>> [This is the title of a new book produced by the well-respected National Academy Press and National Research Council. An on-line version of the book may be viewed for free on-line at this Web address. A description of the research project that led to the publication of this book can be read at <<http://www4.nas.edu/webcr.nsf/ProjectScopeDisplay/WSTB-U-98-01-A>>. I have not yet had a chance to review this information in detail, but from the looks of it, it is a carefully and extensively researched publication put together by an impressive team of experts on the topic.]
- "The Use of Riparian Buffers to Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution from Development", a report to the Maine Legislature's Joint Standing Committee:
<<http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/report/buffer.pdf>>
- "Width of Riparian Zone for Birds", a very good research paper prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:
<<http://www.wes.army.mil/el/emrrp/pdf/si09.pdf>>
- "Streamside Science" information from the state of Oregon:
<<http://www.oacd.org/fs05stbu.htm>> and
<http://www.planning.ci.portland.or.us/pdf/hps_sci_sum.pdf>
- "The space between: Lying at the edge of land and water, riparian habitats play a crucial role in the ecosystem" - article appearing in the Gulf of Maine Times, Fall 2002:
<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/times/fall2002/science_insights.html>
- "Understanding the Science Behind Riparian Forest Buffers: Effects on Water Quality", from Virginia Cooperative Extension:
<<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/forestry/420-151/420-151.html>>
- Buffer fact sheets and other source materials from the State of Maryland:
<<http://www.riparianbuffers.umd.edu/home.html>> and
<<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/MCE/Publications/Category.cfm?ID=8&top=32>>
(see documents FS 724-FS 733)
- "Riparian Forest Revegetation for Water Quality Improvement" - from Minnesota:
<<http://www.hort.agri.umn.edu/h5015/97papers/hanson.html>>
- Healthy lawns and gardens without chemicals brochure and demonstration plot, Marblehead, MA: <<http://208.56.92.121/community.old/PDF/Lawn.pdf>>
- Why Phosphorous is a problem and what to do about it, from the New York State Federation of Lake Associations: <<http://www.nysfola.org/phosphorus/>>

And, last but not least:

- List of Native Plant Species Suitable for Planting in Riparian Areas in Mass., prepared by Russ Cohen: <<http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/river/pdf/rivSp01NL.pdf>> [Note: A similar document prepared by Michael Abell of DEP is awaiting final approval by DEP Boston.] If you are interested in edible native plants, visit this site.