

# 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.



**2,427**  
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.



**Trees are 36% more effective!**

Forested buffers remove more nitrogen pollution on average than grassed buffers.

## 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's current buffer ordinance should be improved to better protect our most sensitive wetlands and waterways, prevent intensified 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 Delaware Center for the Inland Bays recommends the following adequate and optimum approach to buffers.

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

### SIGN THE PETITION

The Sussex Alliance for Responsible Growth will be presenting a petition to the Sussex County Council.

[www.bit.ly/2xrvLK2](http://www.bit.ly/2xrvLK2)

### WRITE TO YOUR COUNCIL PERSON

A letter can make a difference! Learn how to contact your council person at

[www.sussexcountype.gov/county-council](http://www.sussexcountype.gov/county-council)

## Learn More

### FACT SHEETS & INFORMATION

[www.inlandbays.org/protectsussex](http://www.inlandbays.org/protectsussex)

### CENTER INFORMATION SESSIONS

Lewes Library  
October 22 at 6:00 p.m.

## Show Your Support In Person

Your voice matters now more than ever. Attend upcoming public hearings and meetings on the Buffer Zones for Wetlands and Waters Ordinance.

CHECK HERE FOR INFORMATION ON THE NEXT PUBLIC HEARING:

[www.sussexcountype.gov/ordinances](http://www.sussexcountype.gov/ordinances)

