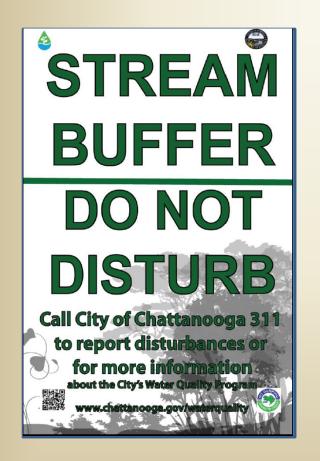
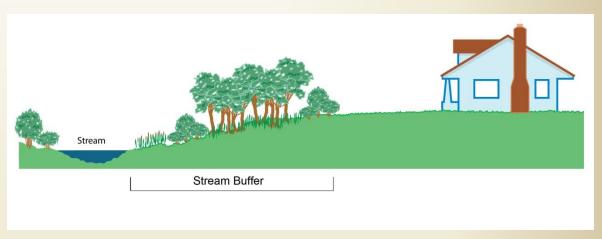


## Stream Buffer Requirements







Mo Minkara, Ph.D., P.E., CPSWQ Water Quality Manager



## Stream Buffer Definitions

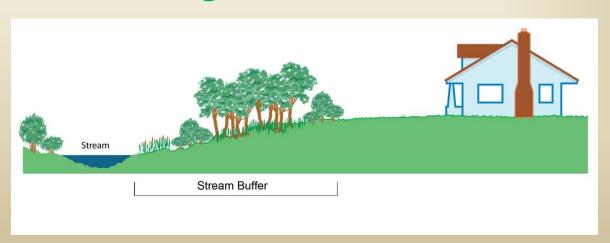


# Set back from Top of Bank of Undisturbed area

containing

Trees, shrubs and herbaceous vegetation or reestablishment of native vegetation

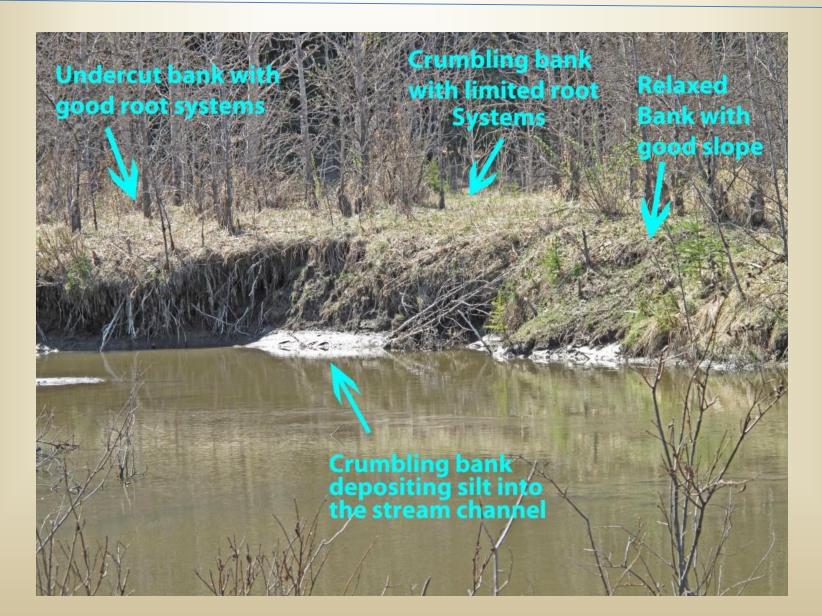
Both Sides of the Stream





## Why Protecting Stream Buffer?







## Why Protecting Stream Buffer?

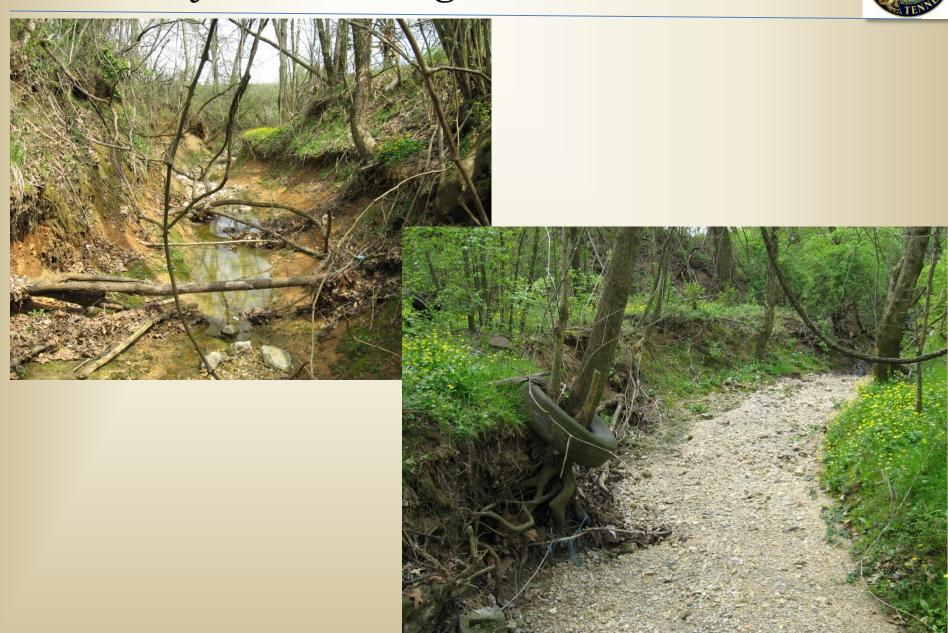






## Why Protecting Stream Buffer?



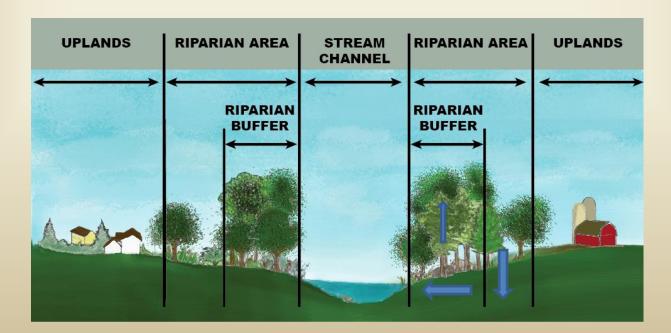




## Stream Buffer Goals



- Preserve undisturbed vegetation
- Protect stream habitat, canopy cover and native plants
- Provide structural integrity to stream banks
- Provide flood protection
- Intercept stormwater runoff through sheet flow (reducing runoff velocity)
- Provide filtration, infiltration, and evapotranspiration.



## **Construction Buffer** (CGP) and Water Quality Buffer (MS4)



## Water Quality Buffer



#### Streams:

- Basins less than 1 square mile:
  - All streams 30 feet buffer: no averaging
  - Streams on Impaired or Exceptional Tennessee: All streams 60 ft., During construction, no less than 30 ft. minimum
- Basins greater then one square mile: All streams 60 ft. buffer: may
  be averaged but no less than 30 ft. at any one point. (a hardship
  will have to be established and can not solely be based on
  difficulty or cost)

#### Lakes and ponds with hydrologic connectivity:

 The water quality buffer shall be twenty-five (30) feet from normal pool.

#### **Jurisdictional Wetlands (USACOE)**

 The water quality buffer shall be thirty (30) feet with no disturbance.







- 30-foot natural riparian construction buffer shall be left undisturbed adjacent to all streams
- For sites that contain/adjacent to a receiving stream designated as Impaired or Exceptional TN waters, a 60-foot buffer is required





## Construction Buffer (City Code Sec. 31-323.2) Water Quality Buffer (City Code Sec. 31-324.2)



60-foot average width / 30-foot minimum at any measured

**location** 

- From top of bank to construction area
- At each side of the stream
- Shall be left undisturbed



For ponds, lakes and wetland: 30-foot



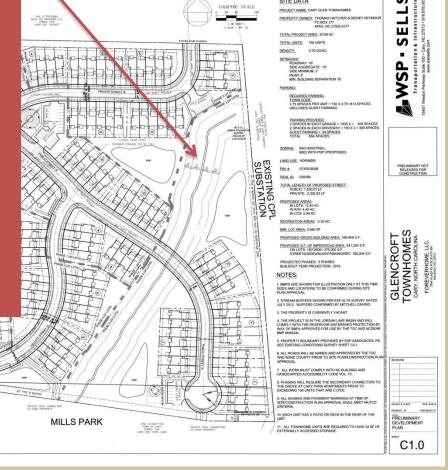
## Buffer Requirements



- >No unapproved clearing.
- Avoid concentrated flow going through the buffer.
- ➤ If top of bank can't be identified from break in slope then stream width can be calculated from the 2-yr frequency storm.
- > Clearly mark on plans and on-site during development.
- ➤ Placed in Open Space Easements
- Recorded with the Deed for the Property
- > Additional buffer width for certain activities (e.g. salvage yards and waste recycling)

INTERNAL STREETS

Streams, rivers, jurisdictional wetlands, springs, reservoirs, lakes and ponds with hydrologic connectivity, and sinkholes.





## **Prohibited Activities**



• No construction activities or Land Disturbing Activities including but not limited to: parking, movement of vehicles, storage of materials, clearing, applying gravel, concrete washouts, etc.) shall take place within the buffer zones.







## **Prohibited Activities**

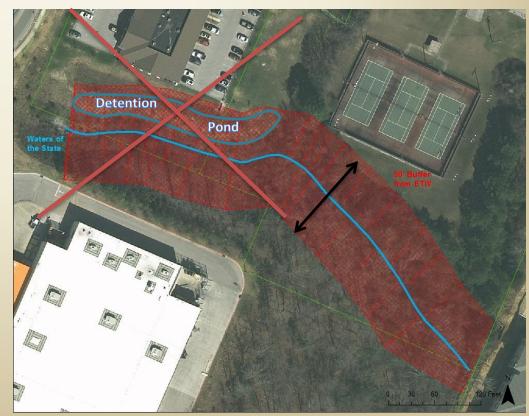


- Buffer Cannot be used for sediment control
- No installation of construction BMPs (such as silt fence, sediment basin, etc.).

No installation of permanent BMPs (such bioretention,

bioswale, ponds, etc.)







## Permissible Activities



- Buffer Enhancement & Rehab
- Enhanced landscaping
- Utilities and road crossing
- Passive footpath or
- A sidewalk can be considered (width shall be added back)
- View Corridor
- <u>Landscape</u>
  <u>Management Plan</u>
- Restoration Plan





### Variance Procedures



**City** have the authority to grant <u>appeals</u> for variances of this ordinance in accordance to **Sec. 31-324.2**.

- Problem is not self-created
- Demonstrate hardship (unique conditions/use of the property such lot size/shape, set backs, etc.)
- Provide alternatives (to reduced buffer width) Restoration Plan
  - Riparian zone (stream banks and/or buffer area) restoration/mitigation/improvements
    - Revegetation, habitat improvement, bioengineering, additional water quality and volume protection
  - Alternatives need to provide comparable improvements to the width reduction





