Multi-functional Riparian Forest Buffers
WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN DESIGNING, PLANTING AND PLANNING FOR YOUR BUFFER

What is a Multi-functional Riparian Forest Buffer?
Riparian Forest Buffers are the strips of trees and shrubs along waterways that help protect stream health. The Multi-functional Riparian Forest Buffer concept was designed to appeal to a broader set of landowners, provide greater flexibility, address long-term maintenance issues while allowing landowners the potential to earn an income from their buffers or harvest goods for their own enjoyment and use.

DESIGN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZONE 1: UNMANAGED FOREST</th>
<th>Multi-functional Buffers typically have 3 zones. All buffers must have a minimum width of 15 feet, but an average buffer width of at least 35 feet is strongly encouraged.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ZONE 2: MANAGED NUT/FRUIT TREES AND SHRUBS</td>
<td>FROM STREAM EDGE TO 15 FEET. NATIVE RIPARIAN FOREST TREES AND SHRUBS - NO HARVESTING.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZONE 3: MANAGED WOODY FLORALS AND FORBS</td>
<td>FROM EDGE OF ZONE 1 EXTENDING AN ADDITIONAL 20 FEET (TO 35 FEET TOTAL). FRUIT AND NUT TREES AND SHRUBS: NON-MECHANICAL HARVEST ALLOWED.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FROM EDGE OF ZONE 2 EXTENDING AN ADDITIONAL 50 TO 100+ FEET. WOODY FLORALS AND FORBS, INCLUDING BIOMASS CROPS: MECHANICAL HARVEST ALLOWED.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Species Selection and Potential Products**

*All species survivability will depend on site conditions. Consult your local service forester for species recommendations.*

- **Paw Paw (Asimina triloba):** Native tree; best production in full sun; bears fruit after 5-7 years; harvest when fruit softens and turns yellow (fall). Products: Fresh fruit; jam; whole sale; frozen pulp.

- **Highbush Blueberry (Vaccinium corymbosum):** Native shrub; grows in moist, acidic soils; harvest from mid- to late-summer. Products: Fresh berries; juice; wine; syrup; cough drops; concentrate.

- **Persimmon (Diospyros virginiana):** Small, native tree; grows in moist soils; bears fruit after 4-6 years; harvest when the fruit turns orange (fall). Products: Fresh fruit; frozen; dried fruit; baked goods.

- **Common Elderberry (Sambucus canadensis):** Native shrub; grows in moist-wet soils; harvest in late summer/early fall. Products: Fresh berries; juice; wine; syrup; cough drops; concentrate; cuttings.

- **Chestnut (Castanea spp.):** Yields nuts after 4-6 years after planting; ripens in late summer/early fall. Products: shelled nuts; gluten-free flour.

  *Upland areas only*

- **American Hazelnut ( Corylus americana):** Dense, deciduous shrub; grows in well drained soils; harvest fruits late summer/early fall. Products: shelled nuts; candies; flour; butters and oils.

- **Witch-hazel (Hamamelis virginiana):** Native, shade tolerant; fragrant; yellow flowers bloom in the fall. Products: medicinal properties; cuttings can be sold to the floral industry.

- **Willow species (Salix spp.):** Pussy willow, curly willow and others can be coppiced for their ornamental properties. Products: cuttings can be sold to the floral market; crafts and decorative wreaths.

- **Dogwood species (Cornus spp.):** Redosier dogwood and silky dogwood can be coppiced for their ornamental properties. Products: Cuttings can be sold to the floral market; crafts and decorative wreaths.

- **Serviceberry (Amelanchier spp.):** Medium-sized, native tree; grows in moist soils; harvest fruit in early summer. Products: Fresh berries; baked goods; jam.

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For more information contact your local service forester: www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/yourwoods