

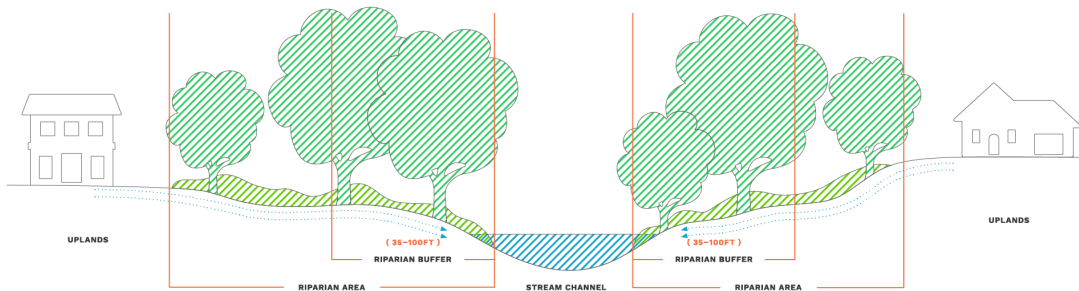
The Southeast New England Program Network: Buffer Restoration Guide

PROJECT SUMMARY

The SNEP Network has created a web-based Buffer Restoration Guide to assist public and private property owners in Rhode Island and Southeast Massachusetts who are interested in restoring and improving buffers along a river, pond, lake, or the coast. The guide highlights examples of buffer restoration and the SNEP communities that received landscape renderings of restored buffers. While the guide is not an exhaustive resource, it is intended to give buffer property owners enough information and resources to design and implement their own restoration project.

WHAT IS A BUFFER?

A **buffer** is the land next to a waterbody that is vegetated with trees, shrubs, grasses, ferns and other perennials, with a natural layer of previous years' growth. This vegetation protects the waterbody in a number of ways: by slowing runoff from upland areas and filtering contaminants, and by stabilizing stream banks and providing shade.



Benefits of Buffers

The environmental and economic benefits of buffers are well documented, and will help:



Improve
Water Quality



Provide
Habitat



Reduce
Flooding



Reduce
Erosion



Improve
Aesthetics



Meet Regulatory
Requirements

HIGHLIGHTS

PROJECT TEAM:

Elizabeth Scott, SNEP Network
Rhode Island Liaison, **Wenley
Ferguson** Save the Bay, **Kate
McPherson**, Save the Bay, **Leah
Soloway**, NEEFC, **Johanna
Barthmaier-Payne**, ATON, **Brian
G Payne**, ATON

PROJECT AREA

SNEP Region (*Southeast
Massachusetts and Rhode
Island*)

KEYWORDS:

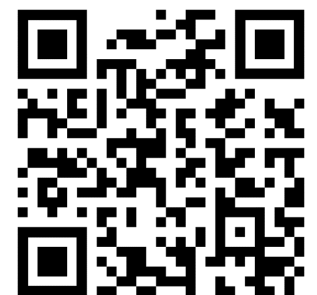
Buffer, Restoration, Riparian,
Coastal, Resilience

PARTNER CONTACTS:

Save the Bay, Mass Audubon,
Blackstone Watershed
Collaborative, Massachusetts
River Alliance

*Property owners who need or
want more assistance may
contact the partners listed for
more information.*

BUFFER RESTORATION GUIDE



Proposed Buffer Restoration Projects

South Kingstown, RI

Peacedale Village Green

The Town of South Kingstown's Peacedale Village Green is the site of a well-loved playground and recreational area located in the heart of Peacedale's historic district, along Indian Run Brook. Currently, most of the Village Green shoreline is mowed to the river's edge. The Town is interested in taking measures to stabilize the shoreline through the park and manage stormwater from the town-owned parking lot located next to the river. The proposed buffer restoration design includes the planting of shrubs and other vegetation that would help to stabilize the shoreline and treat runoff from the adjacent park area and parking lot. The design intentionally includes "pockets" of mowed areas to allow continued access to the river's shore.



Existing Project Site vs. Proposed Project Rendering, Peacedale Village Green

Middleborough, MA

Former DPW facility

When the Town of Middleborough relocated its Public Works facilities, they decided to repurpose the old property, which abuts the Nemasket River, as a public park. The town plans to provide active and passive recreational opportunities for the community on the site, while restoring and protecting the river's buffer area. The proposed buffer restoration renderings developed by SNEP Network consultant, ATON, will help the town incorporate habitat and water quality improvement goals into future plans to develop the site as a recreational area.

ABOUT THE NETWORK

The SNEP Network provides free training and assistance to municipalities, organizations, and tribes in Rhode Island and Massachusetts to achieve healthy watersheds, sustainable financing, and climate resilience. **The SNEP Network is a project of the New England Environmental Finance Center and is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast New England Program.** To learn more about or request network services, SNEP communities can visit www.snepnetwork.org



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- A Guide to Healthy Lakes Using Lakeshore Landscaping: Design templates and easy-to-use planting plans (VT)
https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/lakes/Lakewise/docs/lp_VTlakescape.pdf
- Buffer Zone Restoration Guidelines, Wellesley (MA) Wetlands Protection Committee
<https://www.wellesleyma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6568/Buffer-Zone-Restoration-Guidelines-PDF>
- Don't Just Plant Them and Leave Them Alone: Riparian Buffer Maintenance
<https://landstudies.com/dont-just-plant-leave-alone-riparian-buffer-maintenance>
- SNEP Network Buffer Restoration Guide Resources:
<https://bufferrestorationguide.org/resources/>