

Lynnhaven River Buffer Restoration

A buffer is a natural or naturalized strip of vegetation area that separates your lawn from any adjacent waterway. In undeveloped areas, natural buffers help to reduce the amount of stormwater that enters our river system and filter out pollutants carried by stormwater. Most of our natural buffer areas on the Lynnhaven River were disturbed or destroyed during the rapid growth and development of the City of Virginia Beach. Restoring this strip of land to its natural or a naturalized state can help to restore the Lynnhaven River and its tributaries. Because of the sensitive nature of this buffer area, certain activities associated with buffer alteration or construction within this land area will require permits which must conform to federal, state and local regulations.

Typical Buffer Plan



Typical Buffer Section



Provided by: WPL Landscape Architecture



Simple Activities

to help restore your buffer area that **do not require a permit** may include:

- Creating landscape beds up to 2,500 square feet in the area of your yard which is landward of the adjacent wetland area
- Planting a mixture of trees, shrubs, perennials and non-turf grasses to replace lawn areas
- Using organic mulch, 3" – 4" deep
- Removing poison ivy, and invasive plants, vines and shrubs, preferably by hand. For a current list of invasive plants for our region see www.invasive.org/eastern/ or www.dcr.virginia.gov and search "invasive plants".
- Replace invasive plants with the recommended buffer plants highlighted in this bulletin or for more information, visit www.acb-online.org and search for the document "Backyard Buffers" or <http://info.ag.vt.edu/vaes>, following the link to the Hampton Roads AREC and click on the "Buffer Zone Demonstration Garden" link; from this document click on the link to the "Buffer Zone plant list".



Other Landscape Practices

may require a permit and review through the City of Virginia Beach Planning Department. Check with your local planning department for details before starting these projects. Such activities may include but are not limited to:

- Filling low areas, re-grade or construct drainage improvements
- Terracing the yard either with earth or paving
- Removing trees

Finally, activities that are usually not beneficial to buffer restoration and would require the City of Virginia Beach to permit and review include:

- Using heavy equipment or vehicles to alter landscape (clearing, compaction, etc.)
- Building or installing any structures including sheds (prefab or permanent), decks, patios, driveways, gazebos, pools, building additions, etc.
- Removing the natural vegetation and forest floor (leaf litter and pine needles)
- Removing or grinding stumps on sloped areas



VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION

VIRGINIA BEACH OFFICE
2449 Princess Anne Rd., Bldg. 14
Virginia Beach, VA 23456
757-427-4769

For additional information about projects requiring approval and permitting, please contact the Virginia Beach Planning Development Services Center (DSC) at 757-385-8277.

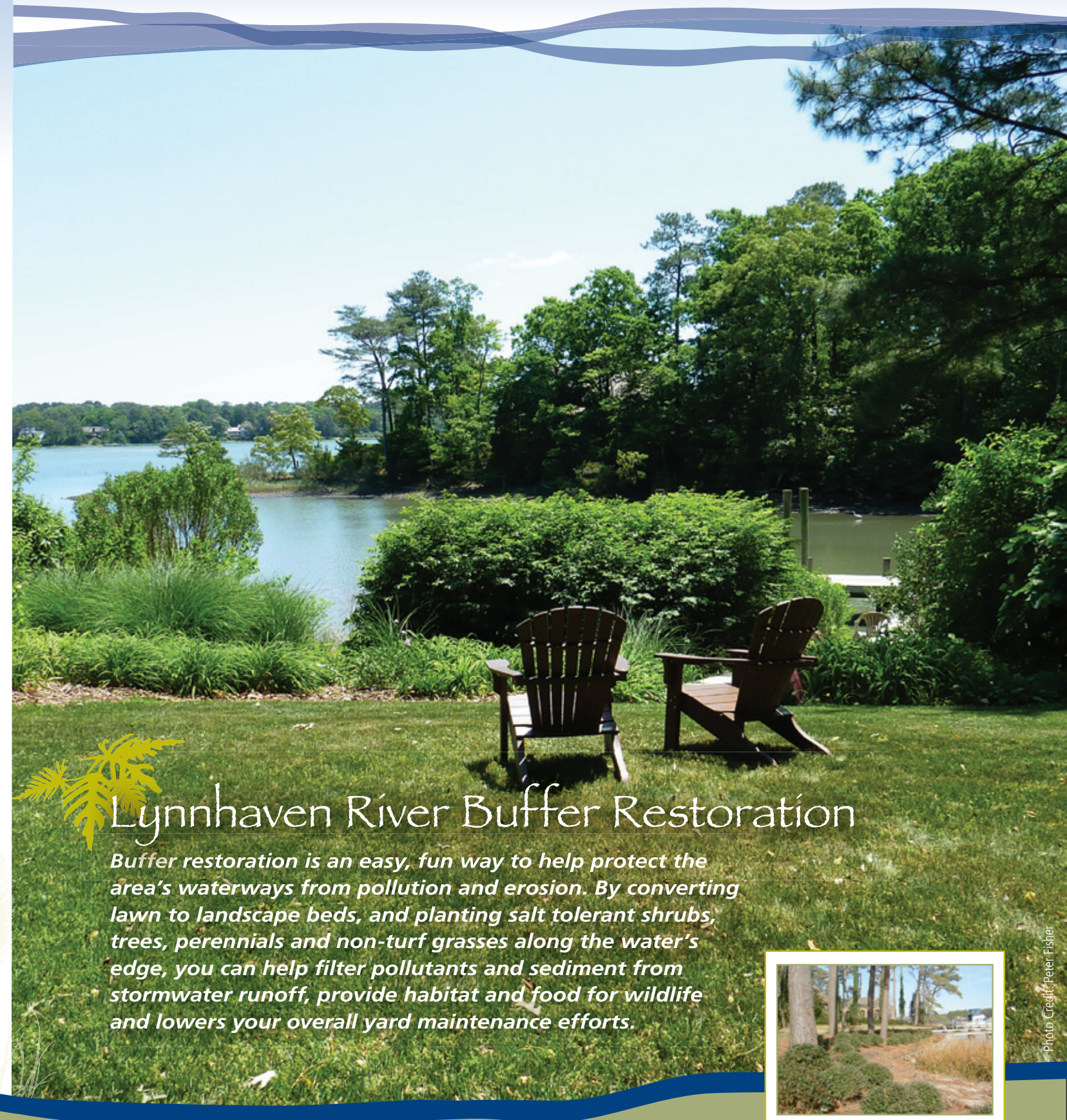
For planting information and ideas, contact the Virginia Beach Master Gardeners' "Grow Line" at 757-385-8156 or visit <http://plants.usda.gov>.

Additional information can be found by visiting www.lrnnow.org or www.vbgov.com.

LYNNHAVEN River NOW

Restoring a legend.

LYNNHAVEN River NOW



Lynnhaven River Buffer Restoration

Buffer restoration is an easy, fun way to help protect the area's waterways from pollution and erosion. By converting lawn to landscape beds, and planting salt tolerant shrubs, trees, perennials and non-turf grasses along the water's edge, you can help filter pollutants and sediment from stormwater runoff, provide habitat and food for wildlife and lowers your overall yard maintenance efforts.



Photo Credit: Peter Fisher

Backyard Buffer Plant List

Buffer Restoration is an easy fun way to help protect the area’s waterways from pollution and erosion. By converting lawns to landscape beds and planting the trees, shrubs, perennials and ground covers on this list along the water’s edge, you can help filter pollutants and sediments from storm runoff and provide habitat and food for wildlife. The plants on this list are very hardy and do not require much fertilizer or pesticides.



Trees:



- Acer rubrum* - Red Maple
- Betula nigra* - River Birch
- Carpinus caroliniana* - Hornbeam, Ironwood
- Cercis canadensis* - Eastern Redbud
- Chionanthus virginicus* - White Fringetree
- Fraxinus pennsylvanica* - Green Ash
- Halesia tetraptera* - Carolina Silverbell
- Liquidambar styraciflua* - Sweet Gum
- Magnolia grandiflora* - Southern Magnolia

- Magnolia virginiana* - Sweetbay Magnolia
- Pinus palustris* - Longleaf Pine
- Pinus taeda* - Loblolly Pine
- Pinus virginiana* - Virginia Pine
- Platanus sp.* - Sycamore
- Quercus alba* - White Oak
- Quercus phellos* - Willow Oak
- Quercus palustris* - Pin Oak
- Quercus prinus* - Chestnut Oak



Perennials:



- Amsonia tabernaemontana* - Bluestar
- Asclepias incarnata* - Swamp Milkweed
- Aster dumosus* - Aster
- Baptisia australis* - False Indigo
- Chelone glabra* - Turtlehead
- Coreopsis verticillata* - Threadleaf Coreopsis
- Echinacea purpurea* - Purple Coneflower
- Eupatorium maculatum* - Joe Pye Weed
- Gaillardia grandiflora* - Blanket Flower
- Iris x ‘Louisiana’* - Louisiana Iris
- Iris virginica* - Blue Flag Iris
- Lobelia cardinalis* - Cardinal Flower
- Lobelia siphilitica* - Blue Lobelia Monarda
- Didyma* - Beebalm
- Osmunda cinnamomea* - Cinnamon Fern

- Osmunda regalis* - Royal Fern
- Pachysandra procumbens* - Allegheny Pachysandra
- Penstemon digitalis* - Beardtongue
- Penstemon gloxiniioides* - Gloxinia Penstemon
- Rudbeckia fulgida* - Black-eyed Susan
- Rudbeckia laciniata* - Green Coneflower
- Rudbeckia triloba* - Three-lobed Coneflower
- Rosa rugosa* - Rugosa Rose
- Solidago sphacelata* - Goldenrod
- Tradescantia x andersoniana* - Spiderwort
- Veronicastrum virginica* - Culver’s Root
- Zephyranthes atamasco* - Atamasco Lily



Shrubs:



- Amelanchier canadensis* - Shadblow Serviceberry
- Aronia arbutifolia* - Red Chokeberry
- Baccharis halimifolia* - Saltbush
- Callicarpa americana* - Beautyberry
- Cephalanthus occidentalis* - Buttonbush
- Clethra alnifolia* - Summersweet Clethra
- Cornus amomum* - Silky Dogwood
- Cornus racemosa* - Gray Dogwood
- Cornus sericea* - Redosier Dogwood
- Fothergilla gardenii* - Dwarf Fothergilla
- Hamamelis virginiana* - Witch hazel

- Hibiscus moscheutos* - Swamp Rose - Mallow
- Hypericum calycinum* - St. John’s Wort
- Ilex glabra* - Inkberry Holly
- Ilex verticillata* - Winterberry
- Itea virginica* - Virginia Sweetspire
- Leucothoe axillaris* - Coastal Leucothoe
- Myrica cerifera* - Southern Waxmyrtle
- Potentilla fruticosa* - Bush Cinquefoil
- Spiraea tomentosa* - Steeplebush
- Viburnum lentago* - Nannyberry
- Viburnum prunifolium* - Blackhaw



Non-Turf Grasses & Grass-like Plants:



- Acorus gramineus ‘Ogon’* - Variegated Sweet Flag
- Andropogon gerardii* - Big Bluestem
- Distichlis spicata* - Inland Saltgrass
- Eragrostis curvula* - Weeping Lovegrass
- Eragrostis refracta* - Coastal Lovegrass
- Festuca rebre rubra* - Creeping Red Fescue
- Festuca rubra* - Red Fescue
- Festuca brevipila* - Hard Fescue

- Festuca ovina glauca* - Blue Sheep Fescue
- Juncus effusus* - Rush
- Muhlenbergia capillaris* - Muhly Grass
- Panicum virgatum* - Switch Grass
- Paspalum vaginatum* - Seashore Paspalum
- Schizachyrium scoparium* - Little Bluestem
- Schizachyrium littorale* - Shore Little Bluestem
- Sorghastrum nutans* - Indiangrass
- Uniola paniculata* - Sea Oats