

## What is Rain Harvesting?

Rain harvesting is the accumulating and storing of rainwater. The easiest way to do this is with a rain barrel. The barrel is connected to the spouting on a house or building and the rain runs off the roof and into the barrel. The water picks up few contaminants and can be used to water lawns and gardens and wash your car. Other benefits of rain barrels include:

- reducing storm water runoff
- collecting and directing rain water away from the foundation of your house
- reducing household watering needs
- reducing your personal water consumption
- reducing water and some sewer bills as well as electric bills from sump pump usage

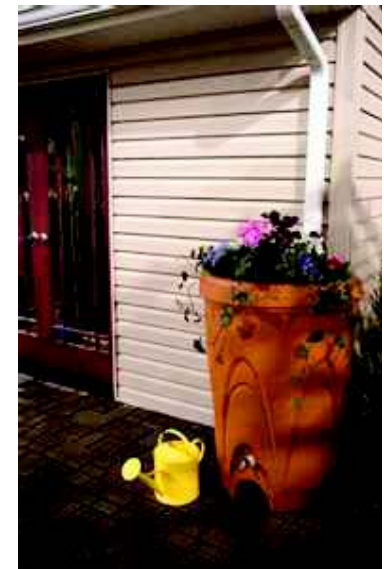


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Planning Commission  
Stark County Health Department  
Stark Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
Village of East Canton

For more information on riparian  
corridors, rain harvesting,  
the P.I.P.E. Committee, or the Storm  
Water Education Program,  
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## Riparian Corridors and Rain Harvesting



## What are Riparian Corridors?

Riparian corridors (buffers) are areas of trees, shrubs, and grasses located next to rivers, streams, lakes, or other natural bodies of water. These buffers provide many benefits to our water including:

- preserving water quality by plants filtering sediment from runoff before it enters rivers, streams, ponds, recreational areas
- protecting stream banks from erosion
- providing natural storage for flooding and reducing the potential for flood damage during large storm events
- providing food and habitat for fish and wildlife
- preserving open space and aesthetic surroundings



before (no buffer)



after (with buffer)

While many buffers protect stream health and water quality, they also benefit urbanized areas by reducing the amount of storm runoff pollution entering the streams.

Construction and development have changed the natural environment. Roads, driveways, houses, businesses, and recreation areas like parks and ball fields have increased the amount of hard surfaces, reducing the ability of rainfall to soak into the ground. This increases the amount of runoff that flows directly into the bodies of water. Buffers are natural filters for removing pollutants before they reach rivers, lakes, streams. The wider the buffer, the more pollution is removed from storm water.

## What Can You Do?

- don't mow to the edge of the stream bank
- plant shrubs with strong roots and native vegetation
- don't change the course of the stream
- keep septic systems in good working order
- don't dump anything into the stream
- clean up litter and yard waste (grass, leaves, and pet waste)
- fertilize sparingly and organically

### Native Vegetation

Redosier Dogwood  
Grey Stem Dogwood  
Silky Dogwood  
Green Twig/Round-leaved Dogwood  
Sandbar Willow  
Dwarf Willow  
Purpleosier Willow  
Buttonbush