

Conservation Planning: Protecting Our Investment Through Careful Planning



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COMMUNITY WIDE STEWARDSHIP

- Farmers account for .18% of the NJ population and manage 17% of our land base.
- Farmland in NJ is decreasing every year.
- Preserving farmland is only part of the picture. To truly *preserve* our farms we need to *conserve* their natural resources

What is Conservation Planning

Careful planning to protect the soil, water, air, plant, animal, and human resources on a farm or other large tract of land.

A way to document what a land owner or farmer is doing on their property to protect and enhance the environment.

A tool to inform land use decisions.

Parts of a Conservation Plan

- Aerial Photography and diagram of your farm including the location of new and existing practices
- A list of your management decisions and a schedule for their implementation
- A soil map and descriptions
- Information sheets explaining how to carry out specific management decisions

DIVERSION

Practice Instructions

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service



A DIVERSION

is an earthen channel with a ridge on the lower side constructed across a slope. It directs water from a specific area to a stable outlet.

Diversions protect areas below them from erosion or excess water. They may also intercept shallow sub-surface flow.

HOW A DIVERSION HELPS

Reduces soil erosion by decreasing the amount of water entering the eroding area.

Protects terraces by diverting water away from the top terrace.

Directs clean water away from pollution sources (feedlots, barnyards, mine drainage) which prevents pollution of downstream lakes and streams.

Removes excess water from sloping farmland, improving soil conditions for crop production, machinery operation, or grazing.

Diverts water from farmsteads, barnyards, and roadways.

Diverts water to areas of need.

USING A DIVERSION

When:

Water from higher areas is damaging cropland, pastureland, farmsteads, feedlots, or conservation practices, such as terraces or stripcropping.

Surface flow and seepage are creating areas which are difficult to farm.

Runoff is available for diversion and use on nearby sites.

It is needed to prevent water pollution.

It is needed to control erosion on urban, mining, developing areas, and construction sites.

Common Questions and Concerns

- Does signing a conservation plan give anyone access to my property?
- What if I want to change my crops?
- What if someone else is going to farm my land?
- Can I switch from growing crops to having animals?
- What if someone else buys my farm?

Conservation Practices

Conservation Practices are the tools a planner has that allow them to conserve natural resources.

Practices can be found in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

- Primary scientific references for conservation. It contains technical information about the conservation of soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.
- Created nationally and edited by states to include local scientific data.
- **SECTIONS**
 - I: General Reference
 - II: Soil and Site Information
 - III: Conservation Management Systems
 - IV: ***Practice Standards and Specifications***
 - V: Conservation Effects

www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg

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eFOTG Home Page

What is eFOTG?
 Technical guides are the primary scientific references for NRCS. They contain technical information about the conservation of soil, water, air, and related plant and animal resources. [...more](#)

For additional information and requirements please contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

What's in eFOTG?
 Section I -General References
 Section II -Natural Resources Information
 Section III-Conservation Management Systems
 Section IV -Practice Standards and Specifications
 Section V -Conservation Effects [...more](#)


What's Changed Recently

What's Changed Recently

[NRCS NJ Irrigation Guide \(10/20/2005\)](#)
 NRCS NJ Irrigation Guide. 240 pages as a pdf document. Required Adobe Acrobat Reader.

[NJ Agreement between NRCS and SHPO \(10/20/2005\)](#)
 This is the NJ State Level Agreement between the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), NJ and the NJ Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO) [...more \(Last 30 days\)](#)

Draft eFOTG



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Search menu: GO!

eFOTG FYI

- Residue Management, Seasonal (AC) (344)
- Restoration and Enhancement of Declining Habitats (AC) (643)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (AC) (391)
 -  Riparian Forest Buffer (AC) (NJ391) Standard
 -  Riparian Forest Buffer (NJ391) Job Sheet
 -  Riparian Forest Buffer (NJ391) Job Sheet
 -  Riparian Forest Buffer (NJ391) Statement of Work
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (AC) (390)
- Roof Runoff Structure (NO) (558)

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Information

Search menu:

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- Row Arrangement (AC) (557)
- Runoff Management System (NO & AC) (570)
- Sediment Basin (NO) (350)
- Shallow Water Management For Wildlife (AC) (646)
- Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility (NO)

Adobe Reader 7.0

NJ391 - 1

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
NEW JERSEY
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFER
(Acre)
CODE 391

DEFINITION
An area of trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from water bodies.

PURPOSES

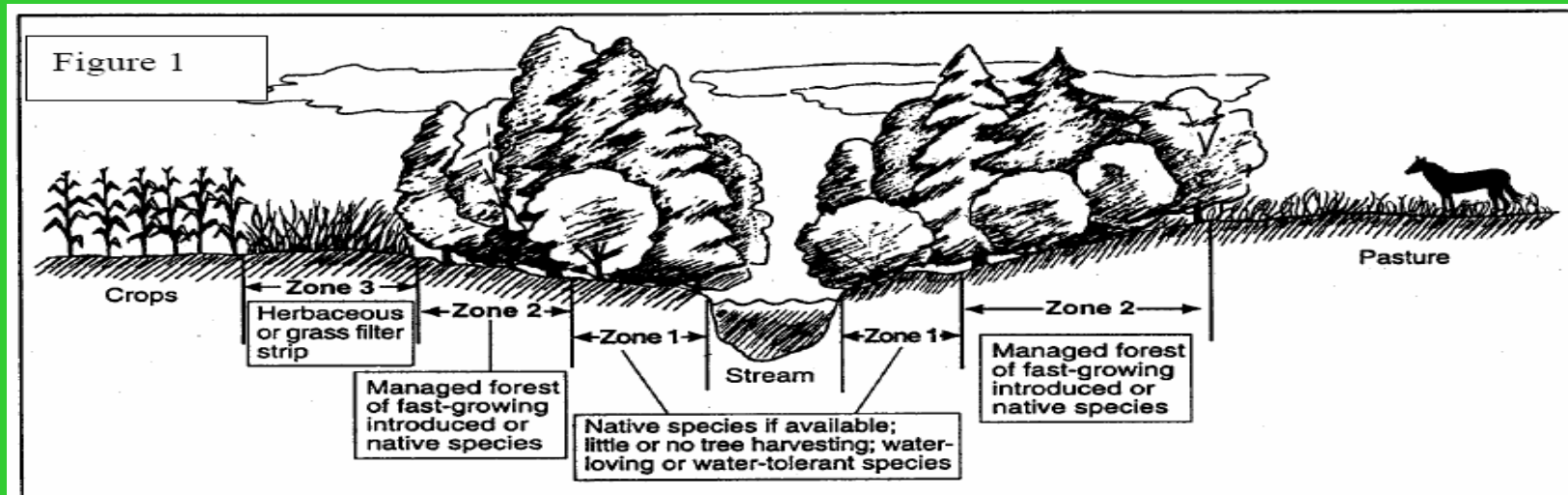
The following graphic describes the ranges of minimum widths for meeting specific buffer objectives.

Minimum Widths

Wildlife habitat

1 of 16

Riparian Forest Buffer (391)



Zone 1: Minimum 15 feet from stream bank

Zone 2: Minimum 20-60 feet

Zones 1+2 combined – 100 feet or 30% of stream valley for a min 35 feet

Zone 3: Minimum of 20 feet wide or 10 feet wide + 1.5 feet per 1% slope



Riparian Forest Buffer



http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/Riparian_Forest_Buffer.pdf

Some Reasons to have a Conservation Plan

Required for Farmland Preservation

Reduced Soil Erosion

Increased Air and Water Quality

Increased Profits

Eligibility for State and Federal Cost Share
Programs

Good Defense in RTF/DEP issues

THE PLANNING PROCESS

1. Landowner or farmer requests assistance
2. Planner meets with land user on-site to discuss options and point out areas for improvement.
3. Develop several plan alternatives.
4. Discuss plan with land user, sign, and apply for funding if desired.

***THE PLANNING PROCESS IS NOT A
REGULATORY PROCESS***

Horse Farm Example

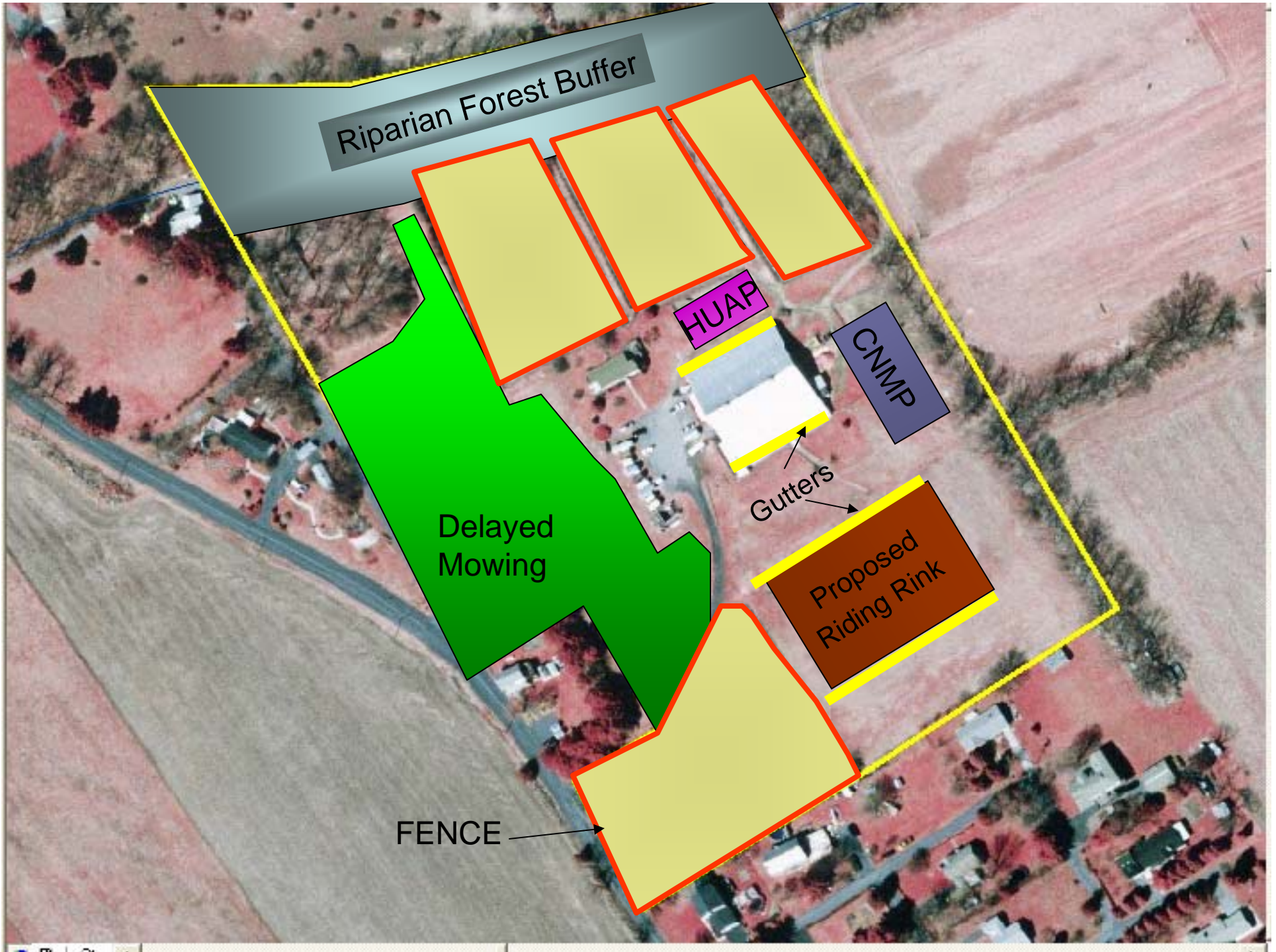
12 acre Farm Management
Unit

20 Horses

Located near two streams

Landowner would like to
cover their riding rink.





Riparian Forest Buffer

Delayed Mowing

HUAP

CNMP

Proposed Riding Rink

FENCE

Gutters

CONSERVATION COLLEGE

- Some things to look at on your way home from the summit.



A Look From Above





USE EXCLUSION



ROOF RUNOFF CONTROL



HEAVY USE AREA PROTECTION





MORE INFORMATION

See handouts in your packets

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AG

www.state.nj.us/agriculture/

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USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

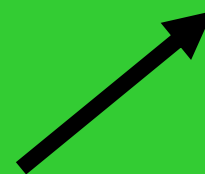
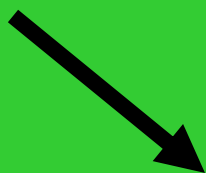
“Helping People Help the Land”

- www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov
- Field offices across the state to help you

Conservation in Action

Some examples practices already
implemented across NJ

- Valley Sheppard - EQIP



Skillman Lane – Franklin Township



Mine Brook Park Riparian Buffer



