



## RIPARIAN BUFFERS:

# Investigate the importance of buffers.

Complete this investigation while watching CBF's LEARN OUTSIDE, LEARN AT HOME [video](#) "[Riparian Buffers and Clean Water.](#)" The [video](#) ([youtube.com/watch?v=LILkU3vQgA8&feature=youtu.be](https://youtube.com/watch?v=LILkU3vQgA8&feature=youtu.be)) will help you answer the three investigative questions below. As you explore riparian buffers with CBF Educator Liz Yocom, use this as a field guide where you can take notes and make observations.

### Investigative Questions

1. What are riparian buffers?

2. Why are riparian buffers important?

3. How do riparian buffers impact the health of the Chesapeake Bay?

### Field Observations and Questions You Have

#### DIVE DEEPER:

##### Be the Expert

See next page. Using what you learned, read a scenario about a person's property, identify the problem, brainstorm a solution, and then sketch the changes you would make to the property.

##### Curious Connections

As you were watching the video, did you have questions of your own? Take some time to explore and research those topics that sparked your curiosity.

##### Design Your Own Riparian Buffer

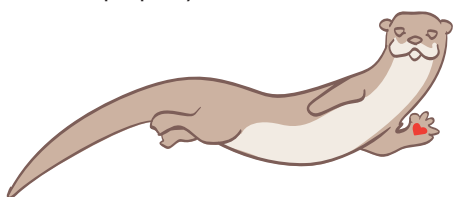
When designing your own riparian buffer, make sure to use trees and plants that are native to your area. Native plants are important at maintaining a balanced ecosystem. Use a separate piece of paper and design your ideal riparian buffer. Check out these links.  
[Maryland Native Plants](#)  
[Pennsylvania Native Plants](#)  
[Virginia Native Plants](#)

##### Riparian Buffer Maintenance

Is there a riparian buffer near you? Do some maintenance by identifying and removing invasive species. Take with you an invasive species identification tool (i.e. field guide, book, phone with internet access). Check out these links.  
[Noxious Weeds](#)  
[Buffer Maintenance](#)

##### Volunteer at a Tree Planting

Communities and farmers are learning the importance of riparian buffers and working with organizations like the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to plant trees. Many times they are looking for volunteers. Find a tree planting event near you.  
[Keystone 10 Million Trees](#)



**BE THE EXPERT:**

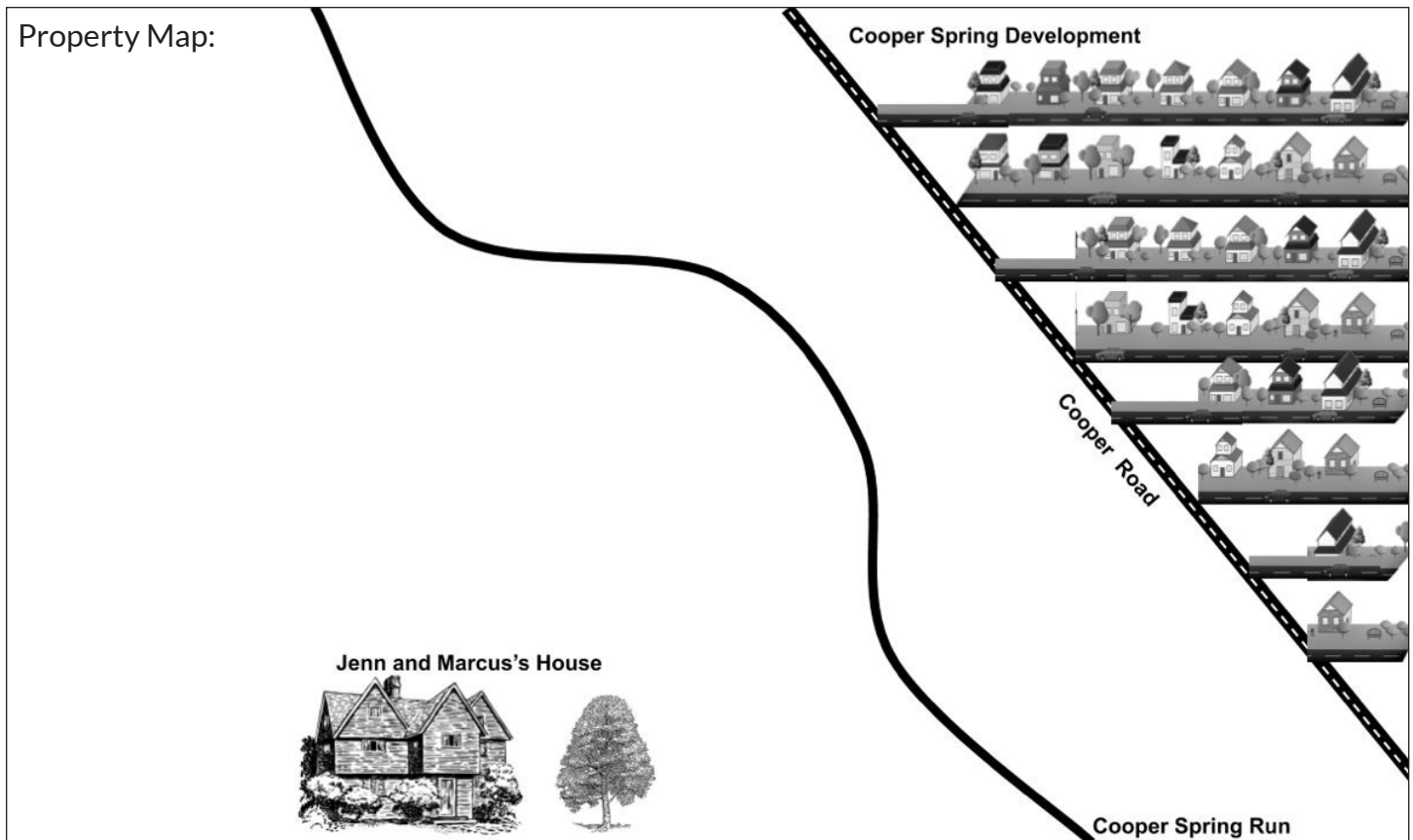
Read the scenario below, identify the problem, brainstorm a solution, and then sketch your solution on the property map.

Scenario: Marcus and Jenn recently moved to a 5 acre property. They are excited about all the possibilities. They want to grow a garden, raise chickens, and maybe even graze cattle. The stream on the property was also a major reason they purchased the place. Marcus loves to fish. Since they moved to the property, they've explored the stream more closely and noticed there isn't a lot of aquatic life in the stream, and there are parts that are heavily eroded. On rainy days, Jenn and Marcus have observed that the stream floods quickly. They are downhill from a housing development, and they wonder if runoff from the development is adding to the flash-flooding problem. Marcus and Jenn are both interested in improving the quality of the stream and hopefully one day being able to go fishing.

**What do you suggest they do?**

Identify the Problem(s):

Brainstorm a Solution(s):



# INVESTIGATION