

What you can do to protect wetlands and their buffers

- ❖ Maintain a mix of natural vegetation in the buffer including ground cover, shrubs, and trees. The more diverse the mix, the higher the buffer's functions.
- ❖ Be alert for the spread of invasive plant species such as bittersweet, autumn olive and glossy buckthorn that decrease plant species diversity.
- ❖ If you use fertilizer on the adjacent lawn, use only the slow-release type.
- ❖ Use landscape materials that reduce soil loss such as mulch or straw (not hay), and cover exposed areas with natural plantings.
- ❖ Minimizing human and pet activity near the buffer is ideal.



Picture of a monumentation tag.



The Office of Community Development has prepared this brochure to provide guidance in the installation of wetland buffer monumentation. Oversight of the monumentation process is through the Code Enforcement Officer, located within the Office of Community Development. The Code Enforcement Officer may call upon the Peterborough Conservation Commission for advice in the placement of tags and/or in materials used.

This brochure is for general information only and does not supersede the requirements of § 233-53 of the Peterborough Site Plan Review Regulations, available at the Office of Community Development or on the Town's website. For more information contact:

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WETLAND BUFFER IDENTIFICATION TECHNIQUES

Pursuant to § 233-53 of the Peterborough Site Plan Review Regulations, the edge of a wetland buffer may be required to be permanently monumented.

Monumentation will be in accordance with the guidelines contained in this brochure.



GUIDELINES

- ❖ Tags, like the one illustrated in this brochure, will be used for the monumentation; they will be provided to the property owner by the Office of Community Development at no charge.
- ❖ Tags must be clearly visible, face outward from the wetland, and be readily apparent to anyone entering the property.
- ❖ The exact number and location of tags is determined by the Planning Board during Site Plan Review.
- ❖ Once in place, the monumentation is considered permanent.

INSTALLATION MATERIALS

- ❖ Tags must be affixed to some suitable base, as described below. Since the monumentation is intended to be permanent, the tag base must be structurally sound and maintained in good condition.
- ❖ Pressure-treated lumber is not acceptable as an option for mounting tags, due to the preservatives used in the process.
- ❖ Acceptable materials include posts made from wood, metal, granite, or some composite material; rocks or boulders; trees or shrubs; some feature existing on the property; or some other material or feature acceptable to the Code Enforcement Officer.
- ❖ The size of the post or other tag base will generally depend on the material; posts should be large enough so that the tag can be securely attached.

INSTALLATION TECHNIQUES

- ❖ If posts are used, they should be installed a minimum of two feet into the ground and of a height that is readily apparent and visible.
- ❖ If trees are used as a tag base, aluminum nails should be used, and care taken to not hammer the nail all the way into the tree, thereby leaving room for the tree to expand around the nail.

INSTALLATION EXAMPLES



THE IMPORTANCE OF WETLAND BUFFERS

What is a Wetland Buffer?

A wetland buffer is a naturally vegetated area adjacent to a wetland. As the term “buffer” suggests, it protects the associated wetland or waterway from pollutants and other environmental impacts of adjacent development. Peterborough zoning requires that a 50-foot buffer zone remain naturally vegetated in order to protect its buffering function. Placing markers along the buffer perimeter helps maintain that function.

Why are Buffers Important?

- ❖ They filter silt and pollutants, protecting quality of both surface water and groundwater (aquifer).
- ❖ They store nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) from runoff that cause algae blooms and eventual loss of oxygen in the waterway.
- ❖ They anchor shoreline and streambank, protecting against erosion and sedimentation.
- ❖ They decrease flood potential by storing water that overflows its channel, and by slowing rain or snowmelt runoff into a waterbody.
- ❖ Over half of our wildlife species depend on wetlands and their buffers for habitat.