

**Description
(cont'd)**

Limiting activities in a *floodway* to appropriate uses is similar to a setback requirement. A floodway is the part of the floodplain, centered on the stream, which will convey most of the flow during a high water event. Appropriate uses exclude most buildings and structures. However, other uses that are allowed may adversely affect water quality and habitat. These include:

- Parking lots
- Roadways parallel to the waterbody
- Garages and storage sheds
- Treatment plants and pumping facilities

Within a setback, a *buffer strip* is the transitional vegetated area closest to the waterbody or wetland. The purposes of a buffer are to:

- Minimize erosion
- Stabilize the stream bank or lakeshore
- Filter runoff pollutants from adjacent developments
- Preserve fish and wildlife habitat
- Screen manmade structures and preserve aesthetic values
- Provide access for maintenance or trails

Buffers reflect that natural aquatic systems may not function well in isolation and that a gradual continuum exists from natural riparian or wetland systems to upland. Ideally, a buffer should be maintained or planted in native riparian vegetation to maximize pollutant filtering, soil stabilization, and habitat functions.