

Stream Buffer Standards

City/watershed	Stream Buffer Trigger	Stream Buffer Width
BCWMC current standard	<i>Projects that will result in more than 200 cubic yards of cut or fill, or more than 10,000 square feet of land disturbance</i>	<i>At least 10 feet or 25 percent of the distance between the ordinary high water level and the nearest existing structure, whichever is less</i>
BCWMC Staff Recommendation	<p>Revise to match (exactly) the trigger for erosion and sediment control requirements:</p> <p>Projects that will result in <u>more than</u> 200 cubic yards <u>or more</u> of cut or fill, or <u>more than</u> 10,000 square feet <u>or more</u> of land disturbance</p>	<p>Revise to: 30 feet average and 20 feet minimum (measured from ordinary high water level)</p> <p>For individual single family homes – keep buffer requirement as current standard</p>
Plymouth	BCWMC trigger	BCWMC standard
New Hope (NH also has lake buffer standard of 10 ft from OHWL)	All subdivisions and commercial or industrial sites in which land disturbance activities will impact one or more acres; or fill or excavate over 100 cubic yards, whichever is more restrictive; or any other site if determined appropriate by the city engineer due to potential impacts to wetlands, lakes, or sensitive receiving waters	10 feet in width or 25% of the distance between the OHWL and the nearest existing structure, whichever is less.
Golden Valley (GV also has lake buffer standard of 15 ft from OHWL)	Where city stormwater permit is needed for work in buffer area: Any activities that disturb soils or vegetation in excess of 4,000 square feet; Cutting, filling, disposal, hauling in, or storage of more than 30 cubic yards of soil.	Same as BCWMC standards
Minnetonka	NA –they don't have stream buffer ordinance that applies in BCWMC b/c no priority streams here	NA
Elm Creek WMC	Land or site development disturbing more than 1 acre of land <i>NOTE: The city of Plymouth uses the BCWMC trigger throughout the city, including areas in Elm Creek WMC</i>	Buffer strip widths on Elm, Rush, North Fork Rush, and Diamond Creeks—50 feet average and 25 feet minimum, measured from top of bank. Buffer strip widths on other watercourses—25 feet average and 10 feet minimum.
Shingle Creek WMC	Based on whether the project otherwise requires SCWMC review –	Stream buffer on either side of the watercourse that averages at least

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	<p>see table in SCWMC Rules and Standards</p> <p><i>NOTE: The city of Plymouth uses the BCWMC trigger throughout the city, including areas in Shingle Creek WMC</i></p>	<p>30 feet in width, with a minimum buffer of 20 feet, measured from ordinary high water level.</p>
<p>Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD</p>	<p>Any activity requiring a permit under Rule B – Floodplain Management, Rule E – Dredging and Sediment Removal, Rule F – Shoreline and Streambank Stabilization, Rule G – Waterbody Crossings, or Rule J – Stormwater Management, AND encompassing or adjacent to a public watercourse or watercourse identified as high erosion area.</p> <p>Rule J (Stormwater) trigger is 5,000 sq. ft. disturbance. Single family residential exempt UNLESS within 300 feet of public water or watercourse identified as high erosion area.</p>	<p>Stream buffer average of 50 feet from the centerline of a public waters watercourse, minimum 30 feet. Additional criteria for slopes >18%.</p> <p>For single family residential property, stream buffer must average 20 feet, minimum 10 feet.</p>
<p>Nine Mile Creek WD</p>	<p>No specific stream buffer requirement. Rule 7.0 requires a District Permit for streambank improvements.</p>	<p>Rule requires prioritization of bioengineering over riprap.</p>

Wetland Buffer Standards

City/Watershed	Wetland Buffer Trigger	Wetland Buffer Width
BCWMC current standard	<i>Projects containing more than one acre of new or redeveloped impervious area</i>	<i>Average minimum buffer widths are required according to the MnRAM classification: Preserve: 75 feet average; 50 feet minimum Manage 1: 50 feet average; 30 feet minimum Manage 2 or 3: 25 feet average; 15 feet minimum</i>
BCWMC Staff Recommendation	<p>Revise to lower trigger so it's more in line with other entities and matches the trigger for erosion and sediment control requirements:</p> <p>Projects that will result in 200 cubic yards or more of cut or fill, or 10,000 square feet or more of land disturbance</p>	<p>Wetland classification systems are currently being revised at the State level. Some watersheds have developed their own classification system, based on the current wetland classification system.</p> <p>Staff recommends the BCWMC keep current buffer standards and include an action in the plan to review and potentially update the wetland buffer standards to reference the new BWSR wetland functional assessment tool, once the tool is final.</p> <p>At that time, the BCWMC could consider developing their own classifications of High, Medium, Low based on the individual functional groups (similar to Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek or Nine Mile Creek WDs).</p>
Plymouth in BCWMC	Projects that result in one acre or more of soil disturbance or that result in one acre or more of additional impervious surface coverage to a developed site	<p>Preserve: 75 feet average; 67 feet minimum</p> <p>Manage 1: 50 feet average; 34 feet minimum</p> <p>Manage 2: 30 feet average; 24 feet minimum</p> <p>Manage 3: 30 feet average; 20 feet minimum</p>
New Hope	All subdivisions and commercial or industrial sites in which land disturbance activities will impact one or more acres; or fill or	Based on Minnesota Routine Assessment Methodology classification, or a similar classification system, buffer

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	excavate over 100 cubic yards, whichever is more restrictive; or any other site if determined appropriate by the city engineer due to potential impacts to wetlands, lakes, or sensitive receiving waters	widths are required as follows (measured from the delineated wetland edge): Preserve: 75 feet average; 50 feet minimum Manage 1: 50 feet average; 30 feet minimum Manage 2 or 3: 25 feet average; 15 feet minimum
Golden Valley	Where city stormwater permit is needed for work in buffer area: Any activities that disturb soils or vegetation in excess of 4,000 square feet; Cutting, filling, disposal, hauling in, or storage of more than 30 cubic yards of soil.	Based on Minnesota Routine Assessment Methodology classification, or a similar classification system, buffer widths are required as follows (measured from the delineated wetland edge): Preserve: 75 feet average; 50 feet minimum Manage 1: 50 feet average; 30 feet minimum Manage 2 or 3: 25 feet average; 15 feet minimum
Minnetonka	BCWMC trigger (by reference)	BCWMC standard (by reference)
Elm Creek WMC	Land or site development disturbing more than 1 acre of land	Buffer strip widths on wetlands (also applies to lakes)—average 25 feet and minimum 10 feet. Rules also recommend that structures have a minimum 15-foot setback from the buffer strip.)
Shingle Creek WMC	Based on whether the project otherwise requires SCWMC review – see table in SCWMC Rules and Standards	Buffer strip widths must be 30 feet average, 20 feet minimum Buffers are measured from the ordinary high water level. Applies to watercourses and wetlands.
Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD	Any activity requiring a permit under Rule B – Floodplain Management, Rule E – Dredging and Sediment Removal, Rule F – Shoreline and Streambank Stabilization, Rule G – Waterbody Crossings, or Rule J – Stormwater Management...and encompassing or adjacent to a public waters wetland or other protected wetland in the watershed.	Wetland buffer widths vary by classification: Exceptional: 80 feet average, 40 feet minimum High value: 60 feet average, 30 feet minimum Medium value: 40 feet average, 20 feet minimum Average value: 20 feet average, 10 feet minimum

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	<p>Rule J (Stormwater) trigger is 5,000 square feet of disturbance. Single family residential exempt UNLESS within 500 feet of (and draining to) public water or protected wetland.</p>	<p>For single family residential property, wetland buffer must be average 20 feet, minimum 10 feet from wetland delineation (regardless of classification).</p> <p>See Appendix D1 from the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD rules regarding the above wetland classifications.</p>
<p>Nine Mile Creek WD</p>	<p>Any activity for which a permit is required under District rule 2.0 (Floodplain), 3.0 (Wetlands) 4.0 (Stormwater), 6.0 (Waterbody Crossings), 7.0 (Streambanks) or 8.0 (Sediment Removal).</p> <p>Rule 4.0 (Stormwater) trigger is 50 cubic yards or 5,000 square feet of disturbance. Single Family residential is exempt if currently meeting District stormwater standards.</p>	<p>Wetland buffer widths vary by classification:</p> <p>High value: 60 feet average, 30 feet minimum Medium value: 40 feet average, 20 feet minimum Low value: 20 feet average, 10 feet minimum</p> <p>See Appendix 3B from the Nine Mile Creek WD rules regarding the above wetland classifications.</p>