

THE DO'S AND DON'TS WITHIN STREAM BUFFERS

YOU DON'T NEED A PERMIT TO...

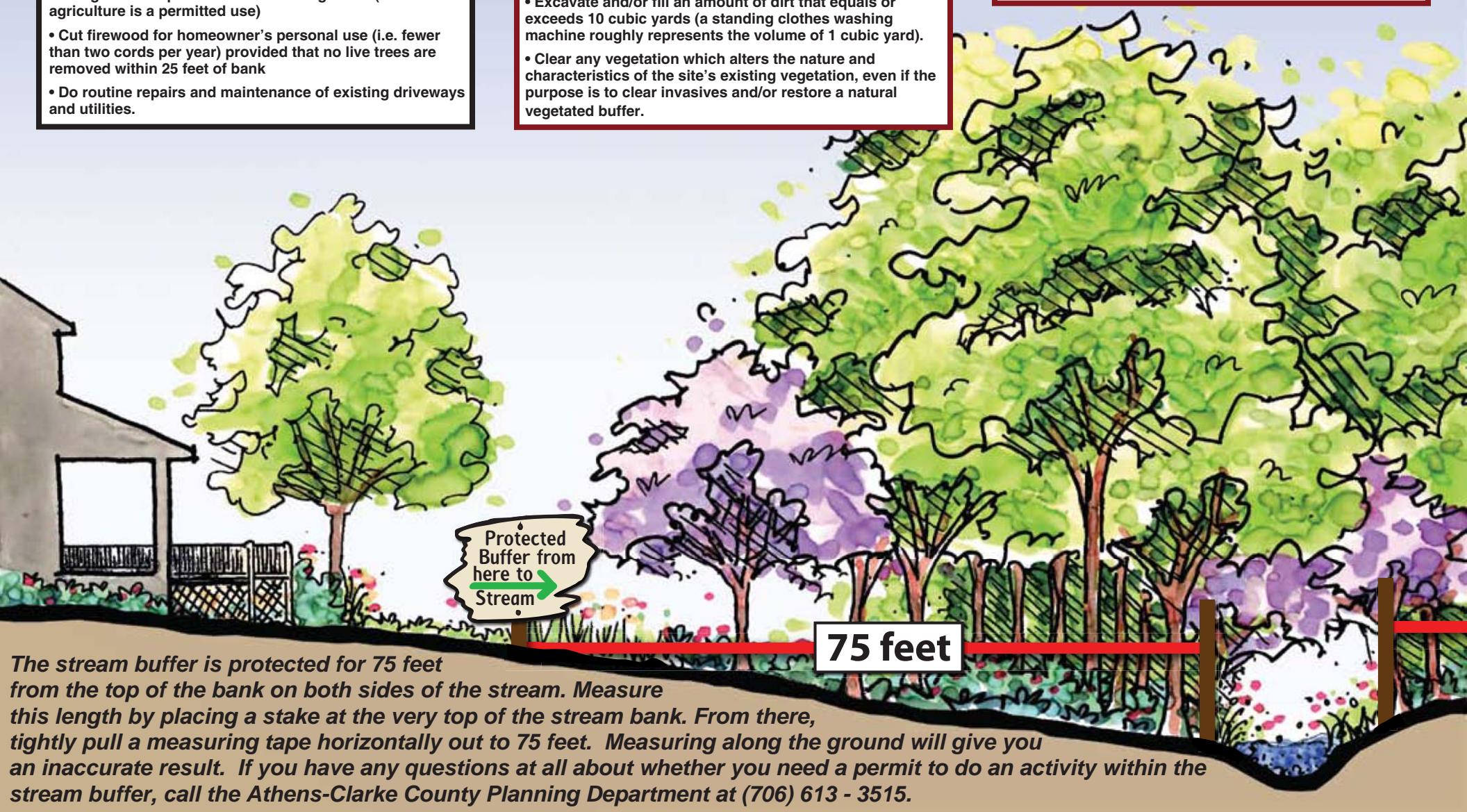
- Do ordinary maintenance of yards (i.e. mowing an existing lawn but no clearing vegetation to sod a new lawn)
- Plant and maintain home gardens (however, if clearing of vegetation is required to prepare area for garden, a permit must be obtained)
- Do agricultural production and management (where agriculture is a permitted use)
- Cut firewood for homeowner's personal use (i.e. fewer than two cords per year) provided that no live trees are removed within 25 feet of bank
- Do routine repairs and maintenance of existing driveways and utilities.

YOU DO NEED A PERMIT TO...

- Construct a home, an addition to a home, and/or accessory structures like detached garages, storage buildings, etc.
- Construct new drives, parking or utilities.
- Construct decks, pools, patio areas, fences and walls.
- Excavate and/or fill an amount of dirt that equals or exceeds 10 cubic yards (a standing clothes washing machine roughly represents the volume of 1 cubic yard).
- Clear any vegetation which alters the nature and characteristics of the site's existing vegetation, even if the purpose is to clear invasives and/or restore a natural vegetated buffer.

YOU SHOULD NEVER...

- Remove living trees within 25 feet of the bank, except to construct a permitted stream crossing.
- Install septic tanks or septic tank drain fields.
- Handle or store hazardous or agricultural wastes.
- Apply fertilizers or pesticides.



The stream buffer is protected for 75 feet from the top of the bank on both sides of the stream. Measure this length by placing a stake at the very top of the stream bank. From there, tightly pull a measuring tape horizontally out to 75 feet. Measuring along the ground will give you an inaccurate result. If you have any questions at all about whether you need a permit to do an activity within the stream buffer, call the Athens-Clarke County Planning Department at (706) 613 - 3515.