

# Riparian strips

## A multitude of services

The riparian zone is an area of natural vegetation beginning on the shore of an aquatic environment and extending inland. It is therefore the zone separating the terrestrial and aquatic environments. It is important to protect your shoreline because of the many ecological services it provides. The roots of plants stabilize the banks, filter runoff water and promote resilience to drought. In addition, the shade created by the leaves of trees and shrubs reduces the amount of light reaching the water, thus keeping the water cool. This slows down the growth of aquatic plants or algae along the edge. It is also important to mention that the presence of vegetation along the edges of lakes or rivers is essential for several animal species, particularly birds, amphibians and reptiles.

## Municipal By-Laws of the Township of Stanstead

The regulations prohibit all work on a strip of land 15 m from the shore of a lake, and 10 m from a watercourse or wetland. However, it is possible to [apply for a permit](#) for certain work by visiting the municipality's site. For more information on the types of work authorized, refer to **article 12.5** of the [urban planning by-law](#).

Tables 1 and 2 present variants to the by-law according to certain characteristics of the land or the zoning of a sector.

Slope of the shoreline < 30%	Slope of the shoreline ≥ 30%
Arrangement of one or more access routes for a maximum cumulative width of 5 m.	Development of an area allowing a visual breakthrough of a maximum width of 5 m as well as a pathway or stairway of a maximum width of 1.2 m giving access to the water.
No vegetation control (lawn mowing, brushing and tree felling) on a minimum strip of <b>5 m</b> .	No vegetation control on a minimum strip of <b>7.5 m</b> .
Renaturalization of the banks over at least 5 m wide.	Renaturalization of the banks on at least 7.5 m wide.

**Table 1.** Difference in the minimum distances to be respected according to the slope of the land on the shore of a lake.

Natural landscape of interest (hatched areas)	Others	
	Average depth of ground < 38 m	Average depth of ground ≥ 38 m
The facade of the buildings must be at least 25 m from the high water mark.	The facade of the buildings must be at least 18 m from the high water mark.	The facade of the buildings must be at least 23 m from the high water mark.

**Table 2.** Distance to consider when locating a building near a lake.

## Resources

As far as riparian strips developments are concerned, do not hesitate to consult the [documents available](#) on the municipality's website.

## Références

Bande riveraine. (2020). Un écosystème performant qui accueille la faune et la flore. Repéré à : <http://banderiveraine.org/la-bande-riveraine-benefique-et-necessaire/la-bande-riveraine-rend-de-grands-services/accueil-la-faune-et-la-flore/>

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