



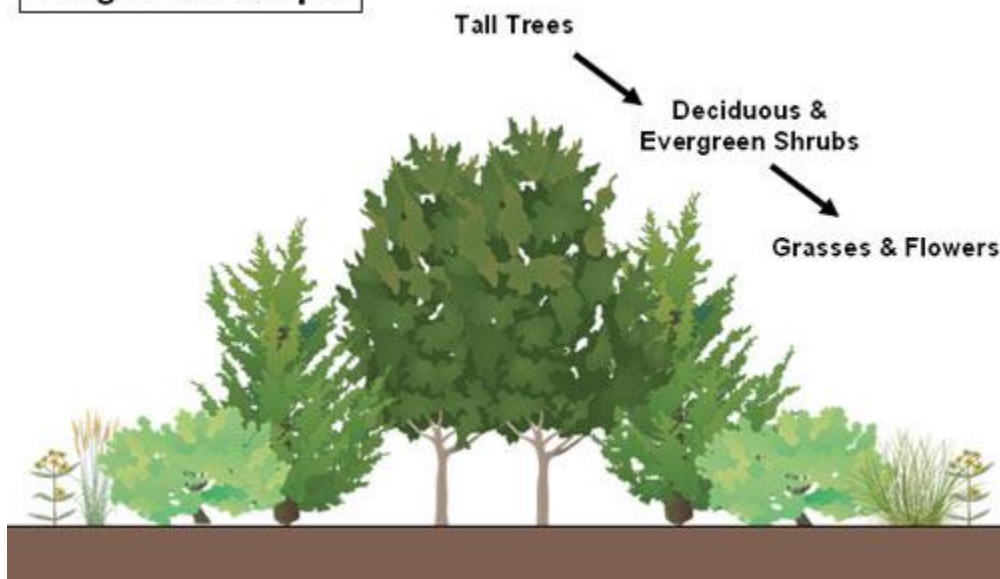
# Planting Along the Line: Landscape Buffers

## Town of New Castle Conservation Board

### What is a landscape buffer?

Buffer zones are the areas on the perimeter of your property which you share with your neighbors. The Town of New Castle **Tree Ordinance** defines these areas based on property size: 5 feet for  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre, 10 feet for  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre, 15 feet for 1 acre, and 25 feet for over 2 acres which provides homeowners with a wonderful opportunity to plant in layers - tall trees, shorter trees and shrubs, grasses and flowers and groundcovers. A modern take on hedgerows, landscape buffers can accomplish much in a suburban setting.

### Hedgerow Example



Tracey Saxby, Integration and Application Network, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science  
([ian.umces.edu/imagelibrary/](http://ian.umces.edu/imagelibrary/))

### Why are they useful?

Buffers benefit people and the natural environment. They add privacy, create shade, enhance air quality, reduce CO<sub>2</sub> levels, attract pollinators, limit soil erosion, aid water retention, and provide food, shelter and cover for wildlife. Functional *and* beautiful – varied heights of mixed plantings create a visually diverse canvas of color, texture, and scent.

### How do I get started?

Consider the native trees, shrubs, and perennials listed on the reverse side and you may wish to discuss plans with your neighbors to share ideas and resources. Selecting native plants that bloom and fruit at different times adds year-round landscape interest. Design elements such as repetition, planting in odd number groups of plants, and drifts of color help unify the space.

## For more information:

The following sources provide additional information, plant suggestions, and design ideas

<https://mynewcastle.org/conservation-board>

<https://www.healthyyards.org/>

<https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>

*Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens* by Douglas W. Tallamy

*The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden* by Rick Darke and Douglas W. Tallamy

<b>Recommended Canopy/Shade Trees:</b>	<b>Recommended Shorter Trees:</b>
White, Swamp, Red Oak	Sassafras
Red, Sugar Maple	Black Cherry
Black, Sweet, River Gray Birch	Flowering Dogwood
Shagbark Hickory	Little Leaf Linden
Ironwood/Musclegwood	Serviceberry/Shadbush
American Holly	Red Bud
White Pine	Witch Hazel
Spruce	Crabapple
Honey Locust	Hawthorne
American Larch	Common hackberry

<b>Recommended Shrubs:</b>	<b>Recommended Perennials and Grasses:</b>
Spicebush	Eastern Bluestar
Red, Black Chokeberry	Anise Hyssop
Silky, Gray, Red-Osier Dogwood	Wild bergamot
Elderberry	Golden Alexander
Common Ninebark	Narrowleaf, Short-toothed Mountain Mint
Fragrant, Staghorn Sumac	Black Cohosh
Oak Leaf Hydrangea	Northern Sea Oats
Arrowwood, Blackhaw Viburnum	Switchgrass
Sweet pepperbush	Prairie dropseed

<b>Recommended Groundcovers and Ferns:</b>	
Golden Groundsel	Maidenhair fern
Creeping Phlox	Christmas fern
Woodland Phlox	Eastern foamflower
Eastern Columbine	Mountain stonecrop
Wild Strawberry	Allegheny spurge
Pennsylvania Sedge	White wood aster

***Prepared by the Town of New Castle Conservation Board. The Conservation Board meets monthly (usually the first Monday of the month) at Town Hall. If you have an interest in Conservation efforts in the Town of New Castle, we encourage you to get involved and attend one of the Board's meetings. For more information, please contact the Town's Environmental Coordinator at 914-238-4723.***