

The following statement is from the Audubon Society of Portland's Landing Use Planning page:

The term "buffer zone" is frequently misused interchangeably with "riparian zone." A stream or wetland "buffer" or "buffer zone" are administrative terms referring to a defined distance between human activity or disturbance and natural feature — whether a stream, wetland, or natural area. The purpose of the buffer zone is to reduce the impacts of development and protect functions and values supported by the natural feature in question. Buffer zones should be used as areas that protect a resource (which includes the riparian zone) from adjacent land uses. The appropriate width of a buffer zone depends on

1. the type of values to be protected (e.g. sediment control, shade, microclimate, nutrient cycling, wildlife corridors, etc) and
2. the level of potential risk to maintaining these values.

Visit the website of the Audubon Society of Portland for more information about land use planning, urban conservation and other bird conservation issues: <http://audubonportland.org/>