



In 2015, Governor Dayton signed into law [Minnesota Statute 103F.48](#), which requires the establishment of buffers of permanent vegetation on certain water bodies across the state. The required buffer widths and deadlines for establishment vary by water body:  
Public Waters: a buffer of 50ft average width, 30ft minimum, must be in place by November 1st, 2017.

Public Ditches: a buffer of 16.5ft must be in place by November 1st, 2018.

The DNR has created a final buffer protection map which can be found [here](#). This map delineates where buffers are required and how wide they need to be. This webpage also contains additional resources and information on how the map was created. The map has undergone multiple changes since it was released. Streams may have been added or removed, or required widths may have changed.

Rice SWCD will be the primary source for implementing the buffer law. We are available to help with compliance determinations and planning. Certain practices may also be accepted as an alternative to a 50ft buffer. Stop by our office or call (507)332-5408 for more information. Also, visit the BWSR webpage at the link below for more details.

## **Compliance Review**

The Rice SWCD will perform a compliance review of buffer implementation for Rice County. All parcels in the county are to be reviewed within a 3-year timeframe. The Rice SWCD will review 1/3 of all parcels each year. In addition, it will conduct random spot checks on 25 parcels each year outside of the scheduled area. Read more about the compliance review process at the link below.