

## Exeter River - Buffers & Setbacks FAQs

In Chester, the protected portion of the Exeter River starts at the culvert on Rt. 102 (Derry Road) and extends southwards to the town line with Raymond.

Per the Town of Chester zoning regulations, the following buffers and setbacks apply:

- **No-Cut Buffer:** 25 feet\*
- **Setback for Septic Systems:** 75 feet
- **Setback for Structures:** 75 feet

\* However, per RSA 483-B, the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act, the following buffers also apply (measured from the high-water mark of the Exeter River):

- **No-Cut Waterfront Buffer:** 50 feet
- **Natural Woodland Buffer:** from 50 feet out to 150 feet (25 percent of this area must be maintained as Natural Woodland.)
- **NH-DES Permitting Buffer:** 250 feet (any excavation, fill or construction in this area requires a NH-DES Shoreland Permit.)
- **No-Fertilizer Buffer:** 25 feet (and from 25 feet out to 250 feet only “low phosphorus, slow or controlled-release” fertilizers are allowed.)
- **Pesticide and Herbicide Buffer:** 50 feet (applications can only be applied by a State-licensed professional.)

*The following reference documents may be found on the webpage or at these links:*

### ***RSA 483-B - Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (SWQPA) - A Summary of the Standards***

[https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/cspa/documents/summary\\_standards.pdf](https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/cspa/documents/summary_standards.pdf)

### ***NH-DES Environmental Fact Sheet – 2017 WD-SP-5 Vegetation Management for Water Quality***

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/sp/documents/sp-5.pdf>

### ***NHDES Consolidated List of Waterbodies Subject to RSA 483-B, the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (SWQPA)*** (see Page 9).

[https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/cspa/documents/consolidated\\_list.pdf](https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/cspa/documents/consolidated_list.pdf)