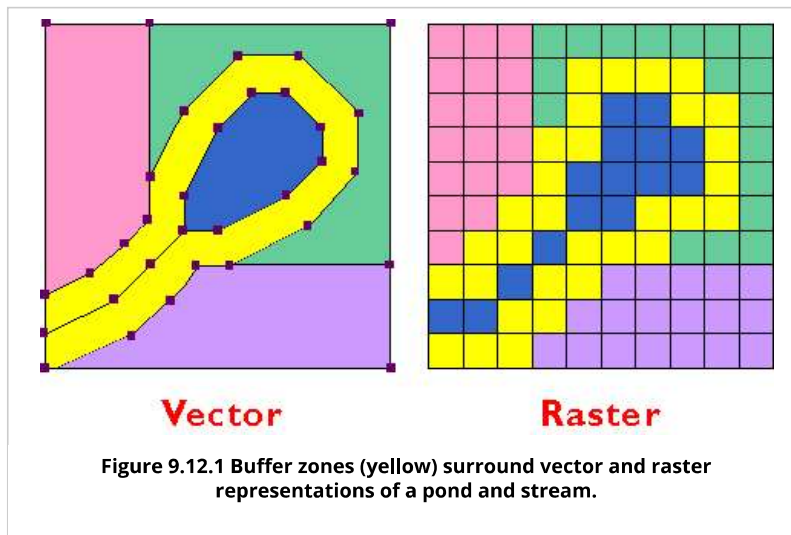


11. Buffering



Several of the disqualification criteria involve **buffer** zones. For example, one disqualifying criterion states that "[t]he area within 1/2 mile of an existing important wetland ... is disqualified." Another states that "disposal sites may not be located within 1/2 mile of a well or spring which is used as a public water supply." (Chem-Nuclear Systems, 1994b). As I mentioned in the first chapter (and as you may know from experience), **buffering is a GIS procedure by which zones of specified radius or width are defined around selected vector features or raster grid cells.**

Like map overlay, buffering has been implemented in both vector and raster systems. The vector implementation involves expanding a selected feature or features, or producing new surrounding features (polygons). The raster implementation accomplishes the same thing, except that buffers consist of sets of pixels rather than discrete features.



◀ 10. Stage Three: Local Disqualification

up

12. New York Case Study ▶

The Nature of Geographic Information

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Author: David DiBiase, Senior Lecturer, John A. Dutton e-Education Institute, and Director of Education, Industry Solutions, Esri. Instructors and contributors: Jim Sloan, Senior Lecturer, John A. Dutton e-Education Institute; Ryan Baxter, Senior Research Assistant, John A. Dutton e-Education Institute, Beth King, Senior Lecturer, John A. Dutton e-Education Institute and Assistant Program Manager for Online Geospatial Education, and Adrienne Goldsberry, Senior Lecturer, John A. Dutton e-Education Institute; College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, The Pennsylvania State University.

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