11. Buffering

Print

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.

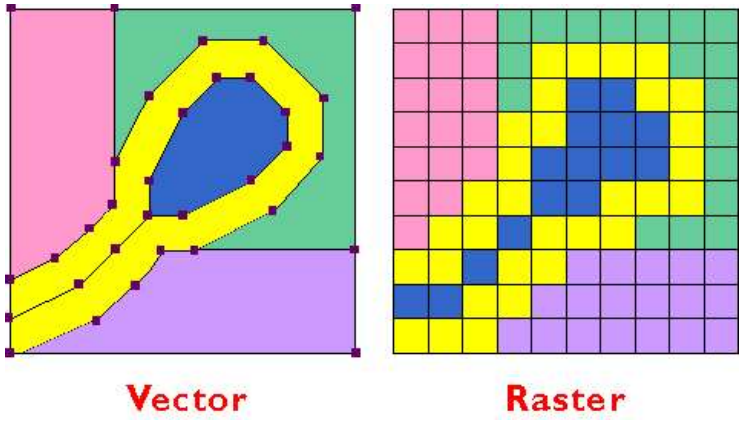

Figure 9.12.1 Buffer zones (yellow) surround vector and raster representations of a pond and stream.

‹ 10. Stage Three: Local Disqualification

up

12. New York Case Study ›

Navigation

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