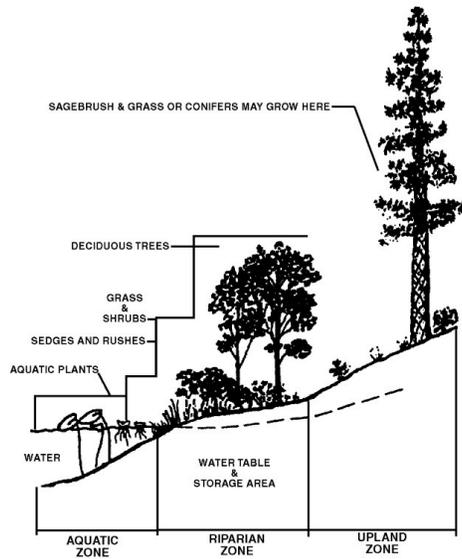


What is a riparian zone?

A **riparian zone** (also referred to as a **buffer** or **corridor**) is the interface between the land and a body of water including a river, stream, pond, lake, or reservoir.



Benefits of a Riparian Zone

A riparian zone full of native vegetation provides many **ecosystem services**, or positive benefits that wildlife or whole natural ecosystems provide to people.

Riparian zones help to...

- ◆ Improve water quality
- ◆ Prevent flooding
- ◆ Prevent erosion
- ◆ Provide food, shelter, & a migration corridor for fish and wildlife

Online Resources & Funding

USDA: Bentrup, G. 2008. Conservation buffers: design guidelines for buffers, corridors, and greenways. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Research Station.

UMaine Extension: <https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/2500e/>

UNH Extension: <https://extension.unh.edu/Shorelines>

NYSDEC Managing Invasive Plants in Riparian Areas: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/tftismg17.pdf

Funding Opportunities: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/bufferfunding.pdf

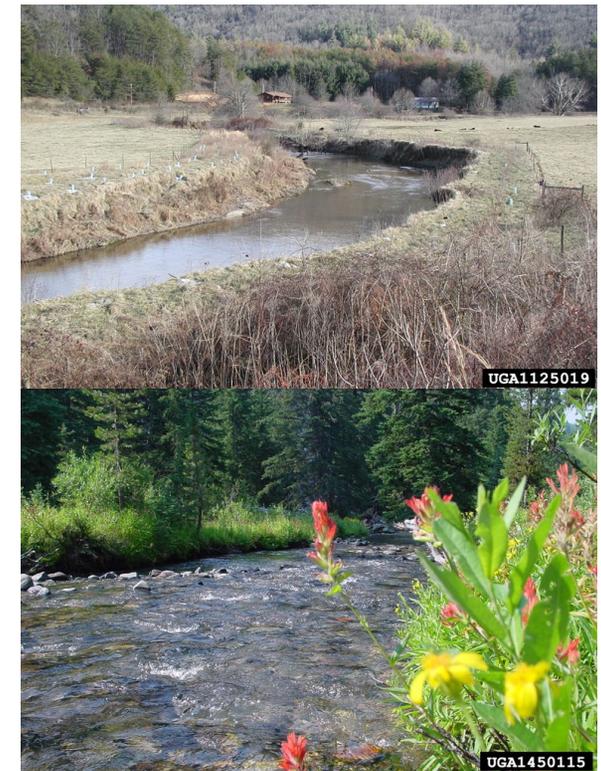


Questions?

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Cornell Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity, affirmative action educator and employer.

Riparian Zone Planting to Protect Water Quality



Capital/Mohawk PRISM
Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

What to Consider for Your Riparian Zone

All surface water should filter through plants before reaching a waterbody. Streamside and shoreline plants help to slow run-off and absorb water, nutrients, and contaminants.



Factors to consider:

- ◆ Slope of the landscape (steeper slopes should have a wider riparian zone)
- ◆ Soil (composition, fertility, and pH)
- ◆ Diversity of plants (trees, shrubs, herbs, flowers, etc.)
- ◆ Typical use of the area (plant around you!)
- ◆ Effort (there are plenty of low maintenance plants to choose from)
- ◆ Reduce the area of impermeable surfaces



Additional benefits:

- ◆ Helps prevent nuisance waterfowl such as Canadian geese
- ◆ Reduces noise and increases privacy
- ◆ Saves money (cheaper than costs of erosion and degraded water quality)
- ◆ Aesthetic value

Which Plants to Choose

Trees: break up impact of wind and rain, provide shade and habitat, deep root systems, keep structure of the land stable

Good choices: speckled alder, dogwood, green ash, willow

Shrubs: break up impact of wind and rain, attractive to people and wildlife, hold soil in place, medium roots

Good choices: black chokeberry, thimbleberry, elderberry



Groundcovers (vines, grasses, flowers, herbs): trap sediment & organic debris, attractive, shallow roots hold soil in place, protect ground surface from erosion

Good choices: tussock sedge, soft rush, deer tongue, blue flag iris, boneset, New York ironweed, pickernelweed, cardinal flower, lizard's tail, swamp milkweed, ferns, blue lobelia



Keep native plants in your lake stable as well – deploy no wake zone buoys 100 ft or more from shore to prevent eroded waterways and fragments of invasive plants from spreading.

A Few Invasive Species to look out for in Riparian Zones ...

Purple Loosestrife
Lythrum salicaria



Common Reed
Phragmites australis



Japanese Knotweed
Fallopia japonica



Yellow Iris
Iris pseudacorus



European Buckthorn
Rhamnus cathartica



Identify infestations and replace with native vegetation where possible.

