

RIPARIAN ZONE

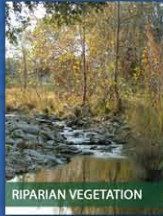
THE DYNAMIC SPACE BETWEEN LAND AND WATER

OVERVIEW

Riparian refers to land immediately adjacent to a river or a stream. This results in a unique ecosystem with great flexibility. A properly functioning riparian zone includes a buffer of native plants that trap sediment during floods, filter runoff, and anchor the banks of rivers and streams. Trees and plants help reduce velocity of floodwaters.

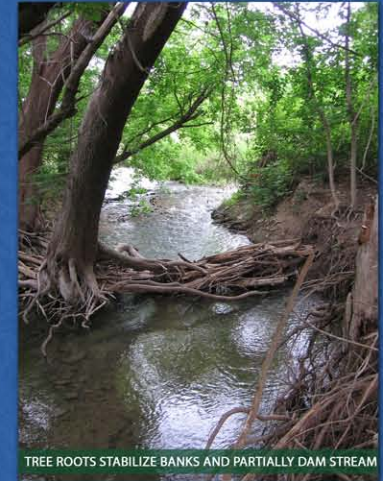
A SYSTEM WITH MANY SERVICES

The riparian system here performs many different roles. It provides a habitat for a diverse group of plants and animals and serves as a wildlife corridor through this more urban section of the river. Riparian zones filter pollutants and keep sediments from entering the river. Riparian trees shade and cool the water for the aquatic life. During a flood this zone protects the banks from erosion.



"Floodplain and riparian vegetation is distinct, among other things, for both its resilience and sensitivity to variations in drainage processes..."

William M. Marsh



DID YOU KNOW?

Riparian plants are rated 1-10 by their ability to stabilize soil during floods. Sawgrass is a 10, which is the most protective. Switchgrass and Bald Cypress are both 9. Mints are only a 3.

