

Riparian Zones & You

Useful links:

www.wetkit.net

"Wetland & Watercourse Alteration in NB"
<http://www.gnb.ca/0009/0373/0001/0004-e.asp>

For children:

"Our Water"
<http://www.gnb.ca/0009/0371/0012/0001-e.asp>

For more information, please contact:

Bathurst Sustainable Development
237 Main Street
Bathurst NB
E2A 1A9
Phone: 506.548.8470 or 506.548.2106
Email: rosewood@nbnet.nb.ca

OR

NB Dept. of Environment
159 Main Street
Bathurst, NB
E2A 1A6
Phone: 506.547.2092

What is a Riparian Zone?

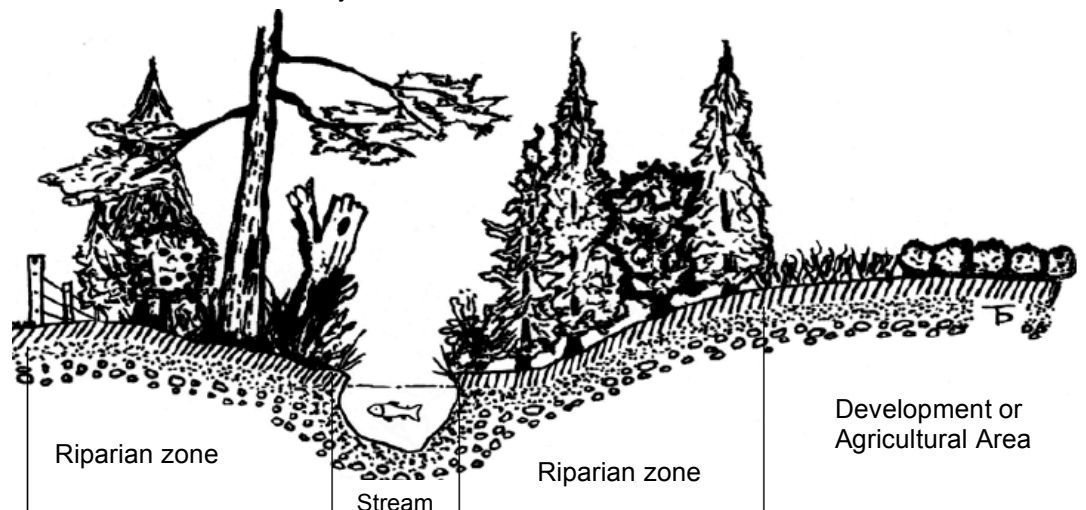
The riparian zone is land adjacent to streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and wetlands. These are transitional lands, with no definite boundaries, between the body of water and more upland areas. Included in this area are stream-banks, the floodplain and plant and animal communities.

Riparian zones are characterized as being ecologically diverse with both water-loving and upland plants. Riparian zones are primarily recognized for their ability to offer a buffer between water-courses and surrounding land use practices such as agriculture, forestry, road construction, and land development.

The Benefits of Riparian Zones

Riparian Zones:

- ✓ Filter sediment, nutrients, agricultural chemicals and other pollutants from surface runoff
- ✓ Protect stream-banks from erosion
- ✓ Provide food, water, and cover for many species of terrestrial animals
- ✓ Provide shade, food, and reduce stream water temperature for fish and other aquatic organisms
- ✓ Decreases flood severity



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Artwork by Todd Dupuis courtesy of Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association

Managing the Riparian Zone – What you can do

Riparian zones are the last line of defense to buffer water bodies from the effects of our activities on water quality and quantity. Here are some tips on what you can do to protect riparian areas on your private property:

- ✓ Plant native trees and shrubs in the riparian zone to decrease flooding and increase habitat for wildlife
- ✓ Avoid driving machinery through or within 10m of the riparian zone – it compacts soil and increases erosion
- ✓ Avoid clearing shrubs, trees, and other plants next to the waterway
- ✓ Do not re-structure the stream bed by building mini-dams with rocks or soil – this disrupts natural flow in the stream and may cause flooding for you or your neighbors
- ✓ Do not plant invasive exotic species in or near riparian zones
- ✓ Contact Bathurst Sustainable Development if you are interested in restoring your stream-banks and riparian zone
- ✓ Please contact NB Department of Environment (506) 547-2092 if your intention is to make any alterations within 30 meters of a watercourse or a wetland. A watercourse or wetland alteration permit is needed for any kind of work within this setback.



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