

# Shoreline Property Owner's Guide

## THE BENEFITS OF HEALTHY BUFFER ZONES



A riparian buffer zone is a strip of natural and permanent vegetation bordering a watercourse. Composed of a mix of native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees, it acts as a transition zone between aquatic and terrestrial environments.

Healthy buffer zones filter pollutants before they can flow into waterways. They also prevent shoreline erosion, protecting your property against land loss and storm vulnerability.

## You can help protect and enhance these important natural areas

- Reduce your lawn area and let native vegetation take over
- Use biodegradable and phosphate-free products instead of harmful pesticides and chemicals
- Install rain barrels to control stormwater runoff
- Pick up pet wastes
- Empty the septic tank regularly and maintain your septic drain field
- Remove invasive species and only prune vegetation for maintenance purposes
- Only plant native trees, shrubs and deep-rooted grasses as they are better at stabilizing the soil and are more drought tolerant

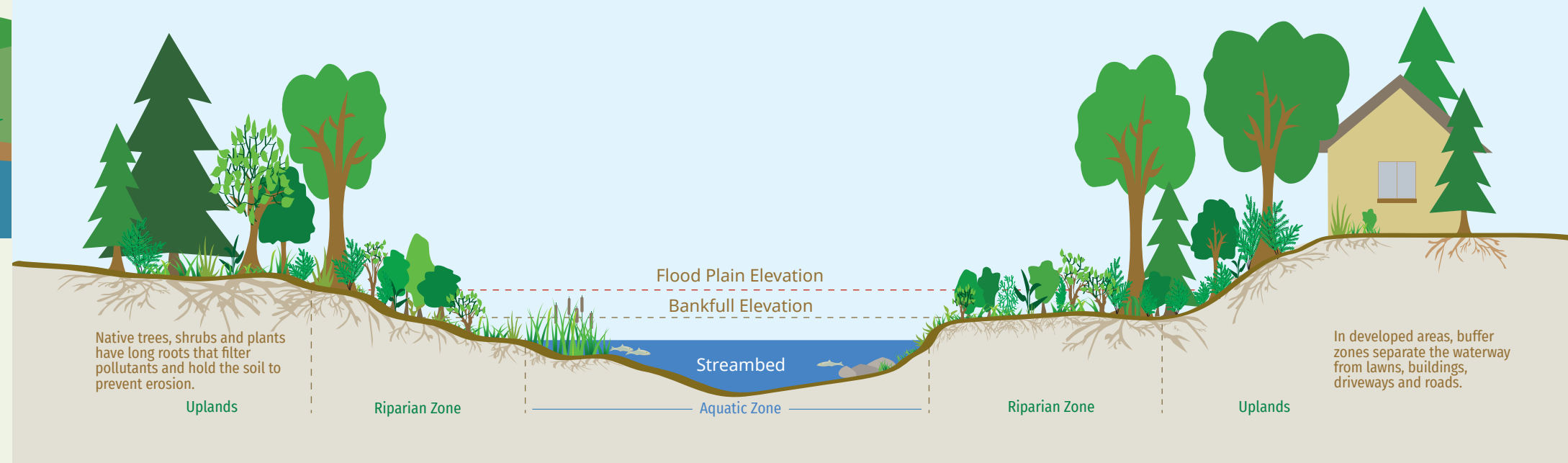
## Buffer zone maintenance and enhancement : Plan before you plant

Riparian areas are more effective when they are composed of dense and mixed vegetation. Plants adapted to local climate and soil conditions tend to be easier to maintain because they require less water and no pesticides.

Before undertaking any planting activity in a riparian zone, it is important to be aware of the conditions prevailing in the area to be revegetated. The type of vegetation depends on many factors such as the high-water line, the type of soil, the stability of the streambank and many other considerations.

According to the laws and regulations of the New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government, you must obtain a permit to modify a property located within 30 metres of the water.

**We can help you in choosing the right plants and trees for your property.** Please contact the Shediac Bay Watershed Association for more information. Tel: 506 533-8880 Email: sbwa@nbnet.nb.ca



### BENEFITS TO PROPERTY OWNERS

- Improves scenic and property values
- Reduces land loss due to erosion
- Protects from strong winds
- Promotes groundwater recharge and reduces floodwater damage
- Restores important stream functions, enhancing angling opportunities
- Improves water quality for swimming and recreation

### BENEFITS TO AQUATIC HABITATS

- Reduces erosion by holding soil in place with roots
- Reduces stormwater runoff and filter pollutants
- Trees provide wood debris to streams, creating habitat for aquatic species and slowing the flow during storms
- Provides shade in summer to help keep water cool for fish
- Provides habitats and food for wildlife
- Absorbs nutrients that feed harmful algae



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