

One of the primary benefits provided by riparian zones to the environment is that they help to filter out sediment and other pollutants from surface runoff, preserving creatures that live in the water and the animals that feed on them. This is due to the plants of the area naturally absorbing this sediment. When floods occur, something similar happens, where the water carries nutrients into the nearby plants. Such floods also promote biodiversity and survivability. Additionally, with the plants that can be found around riparian zones, more wildlife will be attracted to the area, some endangered and in need of space to live. The roots of these plants also help to reduce streambank erosion, while shade provided by them lowers water temperatures and therefor helps in maintaining fisheries by supporting a higher dissolved oxygen level.

In the case of riparian areas that are part of private property, they do not need to be maintained with gasoline-powered equipment and are also resilient to the native environment that they have adapted in. This makes them easy to care for, plus you can enjoy greater opportunities for wildlife watching and a more attractive environment for your home. Further, the riparian zones' ability to reduce erosion will also benefit homeowners. All of these positive factors make them an alternative to non-native plants, which have the potential to become invasive and require more maintenance.

Sources:

- [https://www.tva.gov/file\\_source/TVA/Site%20Content/Environment/Environmental%20Stewardship/Land%20Management/benefits.pdf](https://www.tva.gov/file_source/TVA/Site%20Content/Environment/Environmental%20Stewardship/Land%20Management/benefits.pdf)
- [https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/technical/?cid=nrcs143\\_014199](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/technical/?cid=nrcs143_014199)
- <http://deq.wyoming.gov/wqd/non-point-source/resources/why-are-riparian-areas-important/>