

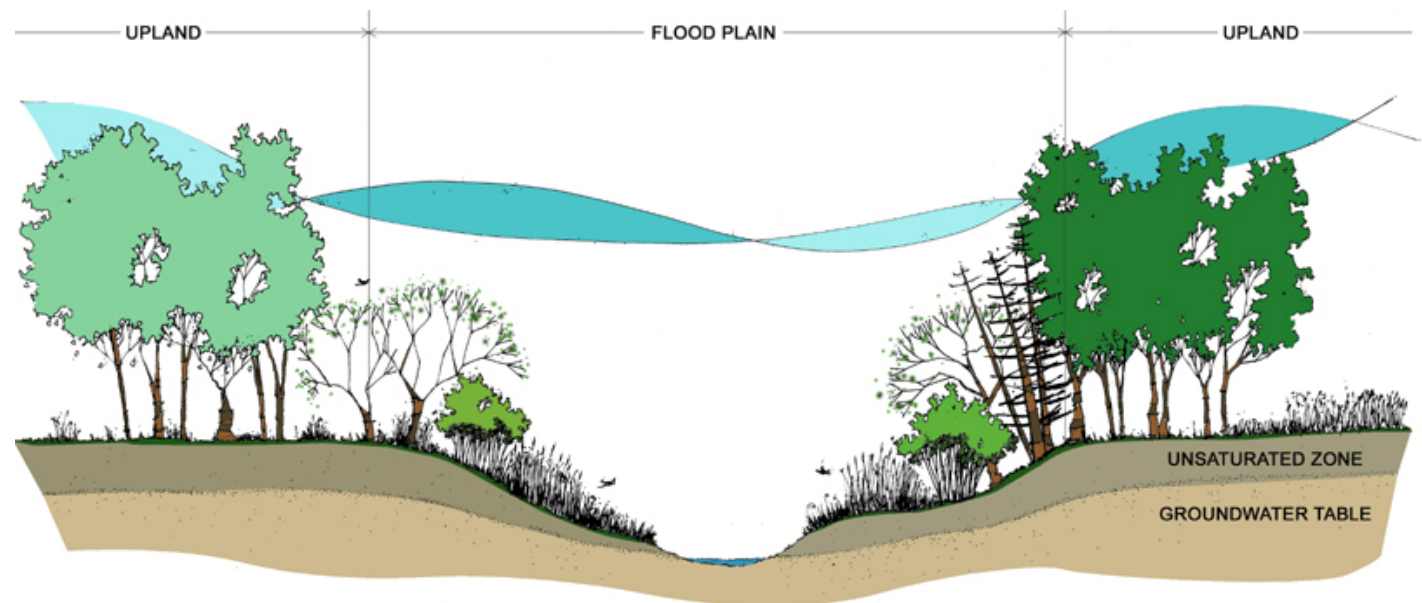
RIPARIAN AREAS

Riparian areas are the spaces immediately adjacent to water courses on each side of the stream. They are most often also located in the floodplain. They also frequently exhibit a significant amount of woody vegetation within their area limits.

IMPORTANCE:

- Riparian areas serve as connectors
- Riparian areas serve as boundaries and edges
- Riparian areas are multifunctional and provide important ecological and cultural resources including flood storage, habitat, recreation, etc.
- Riparian areas provide storm water collection and conveyance

- Riparian areas are the locations of most of our natural woodlands
- Riparian areas improve water quality
- Riparian areas provide important wildlife functions, including habitat and movement corridors
- Riparian areas concentrate sediment
- People are attracted to riparian areas
- Riparian areas provide a source of shade and quiet
- Riparian areas provide recreational trail opportunities
- Riparian areas are important visual features
- Riparian forests shade streams, filter polluted water from the surrounding land, provide wildlife habitat, and stabilize banks and floodplain soils



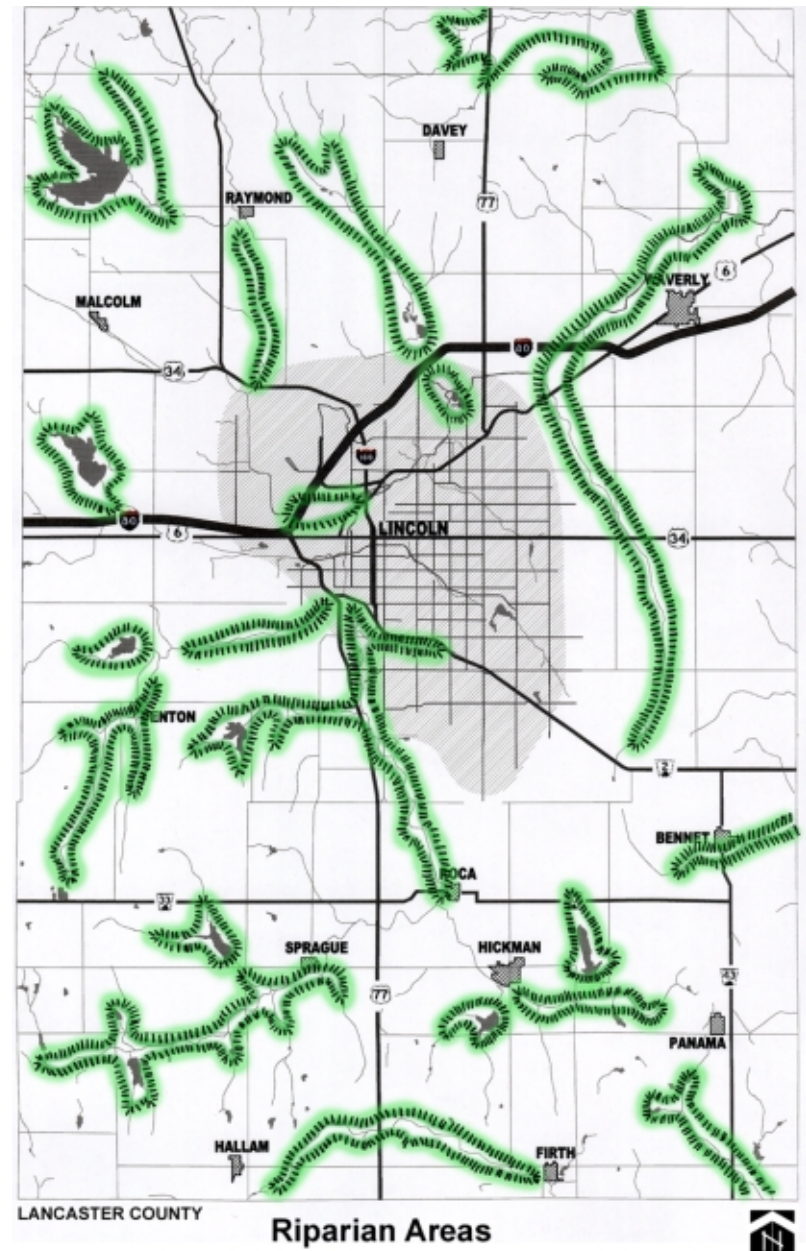
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LEGEND



RIPARIAN AREAS



HUMAN IMPACT/THREAT:

- Riparian areas are easily degraded
- Agricultural land use can narrow the girth of a riparian area
- Riparian areas are often removed in advance of urban development
- Riparian areas are easily eroded
- Human activity and urban impacts can interrupt succession in riparian areas



PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

- Riparian areas provide a physical framework and structure due to topographical variation and other inherent features
- A riparian area's associated floodplain is one of the most significant natural planning parameters
- Riparian areas require attention to numerous storm water management issues
- Attention to management buffers adjacent to riparian areas is required
- Attention to Federal, State and Local regulations applicable to riparian area issues are required
- When crossings are proposed, they should be designed so that connectivity is not diminished through the riparian area.