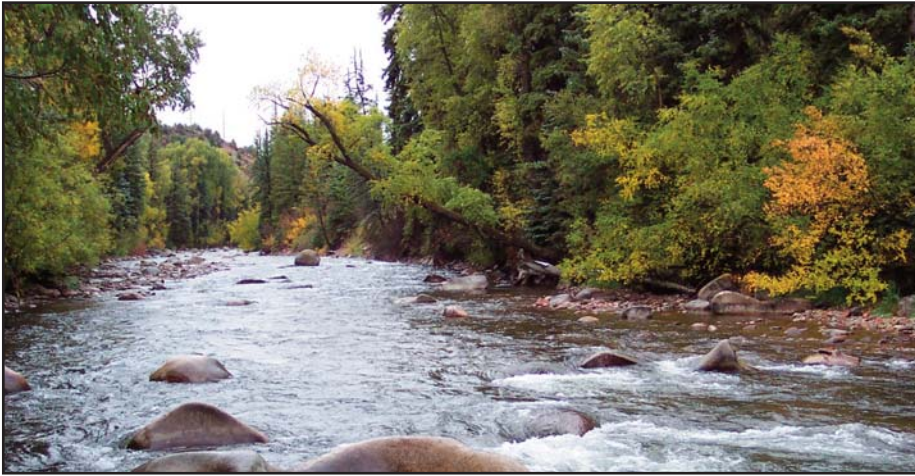


Citizen's Guide to Riverfront Property



Healthy riparian habitat along the Roaring Fork River.

Benefits of the Riparian Zone

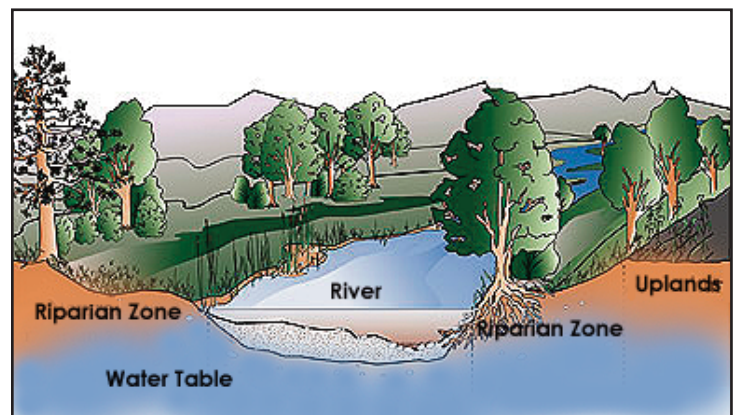
The area along the river, known as the riparian zone, is critical to wildlife and important to water quality. Plants in the riparian zone take advantage of ample water, which in turn provides habitat for hundreds of species of wildlife. Although 85% of wildlife in Colorado need riparian habitat, only 1% of the land in Colorado is riparian. This means that without riparian habitat most wildlife species fail to find food, shelter, or breeding areas. The benefits of maintaining healthy riparian habitat are many:

- Food & Cover for Birds - birds use riparian zones as migratory rest stops, breeding grounds, and feeding.
- Shade for Trout - trout have difficulty breathing, spawning and feeding in warm water.
- Flood Water Storage - riparian soils and flood plains store flood waters and release them slowly.

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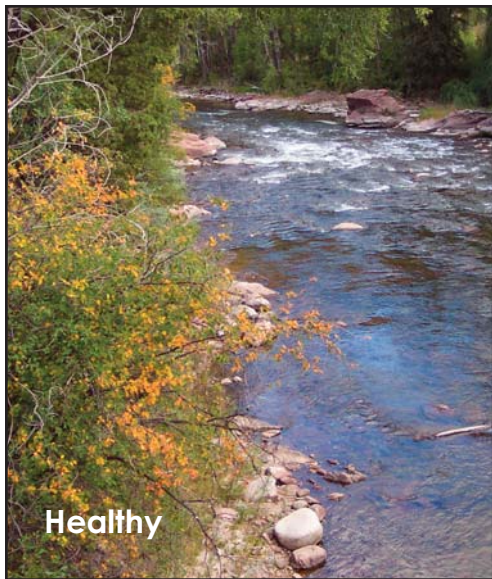
Introduction

Living along the river brings with it an unparalleled lifestyle and experience. From being lulled to sleep by moving water, fly fishing from the back yard, or watching dippers work riffles, rivers provide those who live near them with an incredible experience, and an important responsibility. Roaring Fork Conservancy has prepared this guide to help you protect our rivers.

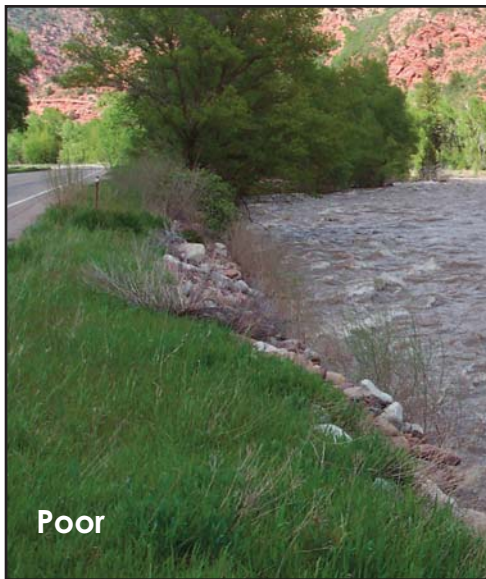


The width of the riparian zone depends on the water table: in some places the riparian zone is only a few feet wide; in others, several hundred yards wide.

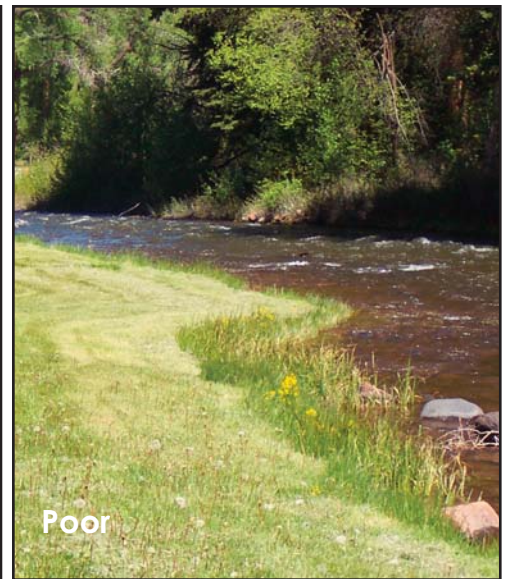
- Pollution Filtering - riparian plants trap sediment before it enters the river and some plants even absorb and neutralize toxic chemicals
- Bank Stabilization - riparian plants are two to three times more effective than rock and boulder banks at stabilizing rivers banks during floods
- Water Savings - planting riparian species means little to no irrigation use, saving homeowners money and water
- All the Things You Love About Rivers - scenery, wildlife, water quality, fish habitat, beauty!



Healthy



Poor



Poor

Examples of healthy and unhealthy riparian habitat. Planting riparian vegetation would improve the river banks in the center and right photos. Roaring Fork Conservancy offers free consultations to riverfront homeowners.

Things You Can Do:

- **Plant, maintain and encourage native vegetation growth**
Native riparian plants provide habitat, stop soil erosion, protect against floods, and can increase property values.
- **Avoid manicured lawn up to river's edge**
Lawns provide little habitat, no flood control and filter few pollutants before they reach the river.
- **Avoid urge to "clean up" riparian zone by cutting dead trees or removing woody debris from river's edge**
Trees, shrubs and grasses, alive and dead provide habitat for wildlife.

Have Roaring Fork Conservancy conduct an on-site consultation at no-charge. Call us at (970) 927-1290 to schedule a time to tour your riparian area.

Top 3 Things You Can Do:

1. Maintain and encourage native vegetation growth.
2. Plant additional native vegetation.
3. Contact an expert to learn more.

- **Choose and use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly and cautiously**
Any chemical plants do not absorb end up in the river.
- **Contact Roaring Fork Conservancy or another expert for information on appropriate practices along river**
Roaring Fork Conservancy will conduct an on-site consultation at no-charge. We can help you select the appropriate plants and plant supplier for your property. Call us at (970) 927-1290 or visit www.roaringfork.org/riverfront.



ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY

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Bringing People Together to Protect Our Rivers

Roaring Fork Conservancy is the watershed conservation organization for the Roaring Fork Valley that brings people together to protect our rivers. As a non-profit we rely on community support to conduct our education, land conservation, water quality monitoring, and research programs. For more information visit: www.roaringfork.org.