

The Riparian Buffer

EARTH'S NATURAL FILTRATION SYSTEM

CLEANER.
WATER.
FASTER.

Did You Know?

The riparian buffer includes many different habitats in a very small space.

Some animals and plants that thrive in open water or littoral zones simply cannot survive a few feet inland due to the constraints of water, sunlight, or symbiotic organisms.

You Can Help!

Plant local flora to help keep and maintain existing freshwater plant life. Fertilize carefully to help reduce the runoff of chemicals into the riparian plant life and the lake.

Learn More!



HOW RIPARIAN BUFFERS CAN HELP

A LINE OF LIVING DEFENCE

Where there's water, there are plants. Naturally; lakes, rivers, and streams harbor abundant plant life. These plants help foster and maintain a healthy riparian habitat by providing food and shelter for fish, amphibians, water birds, and mammals like beavers and otters.

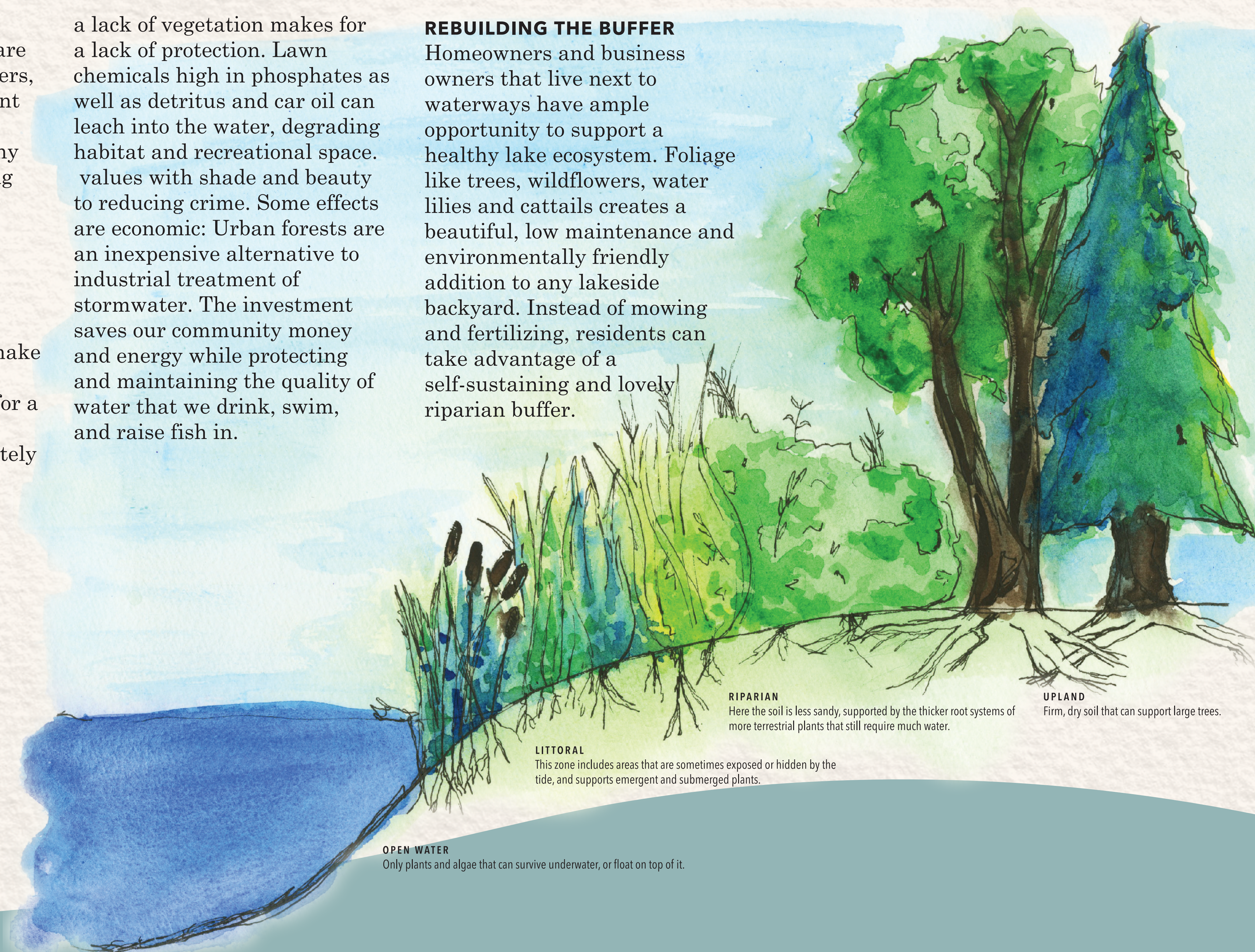
HUMAN IMPACT

Cattails and willows don't make for neat shorelines, so most people have them removed for a picturesque view of the lake from their home. Unfortunately

a lack of vegetation makes for a lack of protection. Lawn chemicals high in phosphates as well as detritus and car oil can leach into the water, degrading habitat and recreational space. Values with shade and beauty to reducing crime. Some effects are economic: Urban forests are an inexpensive alternative to industrial treatment of stormwater. The investment saves our community money and energy while protecting and maintaining the quality of water that we drink, swim, and raise fish in.

REBUILDING THE BUFFER

Homeowners and business owners that live next to waterways have ample opportunity to support a healthy lake ecosystem. Foliage like trees, wildflowers, water lilies and cattails creates a beautiful, low maintenance and environmentally friendly addition to any lakeside backyard. Instead of mowing and fertilizing, residents can take advantage of a self-sustaining and lovely riparian buffer.



OPEN WATER
Only plants and algae that can survive underwater, or float on top of it.

LITTORAL
This zone includes areas that are sometimes exposed or hidden by the tide, and supports emergent and submerged plants.

RIPARIAN
Here the soil is less sandy, supported by the thicker root systems of more terrestrial plants that still require much water.

UPLAND
Firm, dry soil that can support large trees.