



Riparian Area:

An area of water-loving vegetation beside a lake, slough, creek, and other types of wetlands. Common riparian plants include bulrush, cattail, tall sedges, tall grasses, rushes, and willow. This area is important for filtering nutrients that come from the upland soils, protecting the bank and channels from erosion, and providing important fish and wildlife habitat. Riparian areas are a vital link between the upland and the aquatic zone. They help keep the watershed healthy and properly functioning.