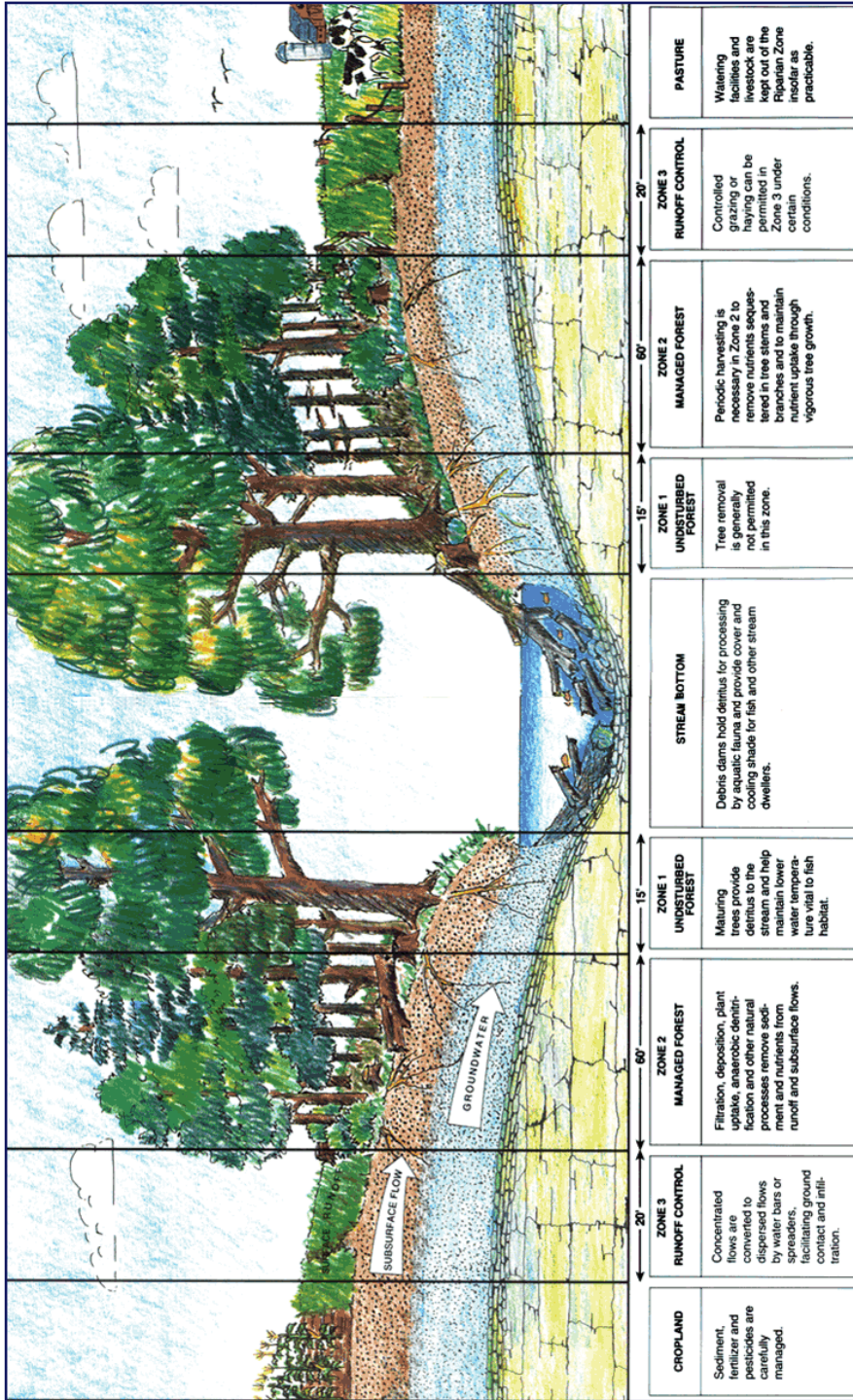




Source: Chesapeake Bay Program

Riparian Forest Diagram



Instructions

Read the definition of a riparian forest buffer and study the diagram.

“Riparian” refers to the area along a river, stream, or other body of water. A **“riparian forest buffer”** is an area of trees, shrubs, or other vegetation located along a body of water. The wider a buffer area, the more benefits it provides to the overall environment.

This diagram displays the benefits of riparian forest buffers of various widths. Keep in mind that although the age of a forest is not considered in this diagram, it is an important factor that affects overall ecological benefits. A mature forest provides more and greater benefits to wildlife and water quality than a young forest does.