

## Additional Resources

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### Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act

- A New Hampshire law that establishes legal protections for shoreland along all waterbodies.

### Pemigewasset River Corridor Management Plan

- A plan compiled by the Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Council pertaining to river corridor management.

### Pemi Baker Land Trust

- A volunteer land trust that can provide information about land conservation along the river.

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Contact the Thornton Conservation Commission for guidance to additional resources about river corridor protection.

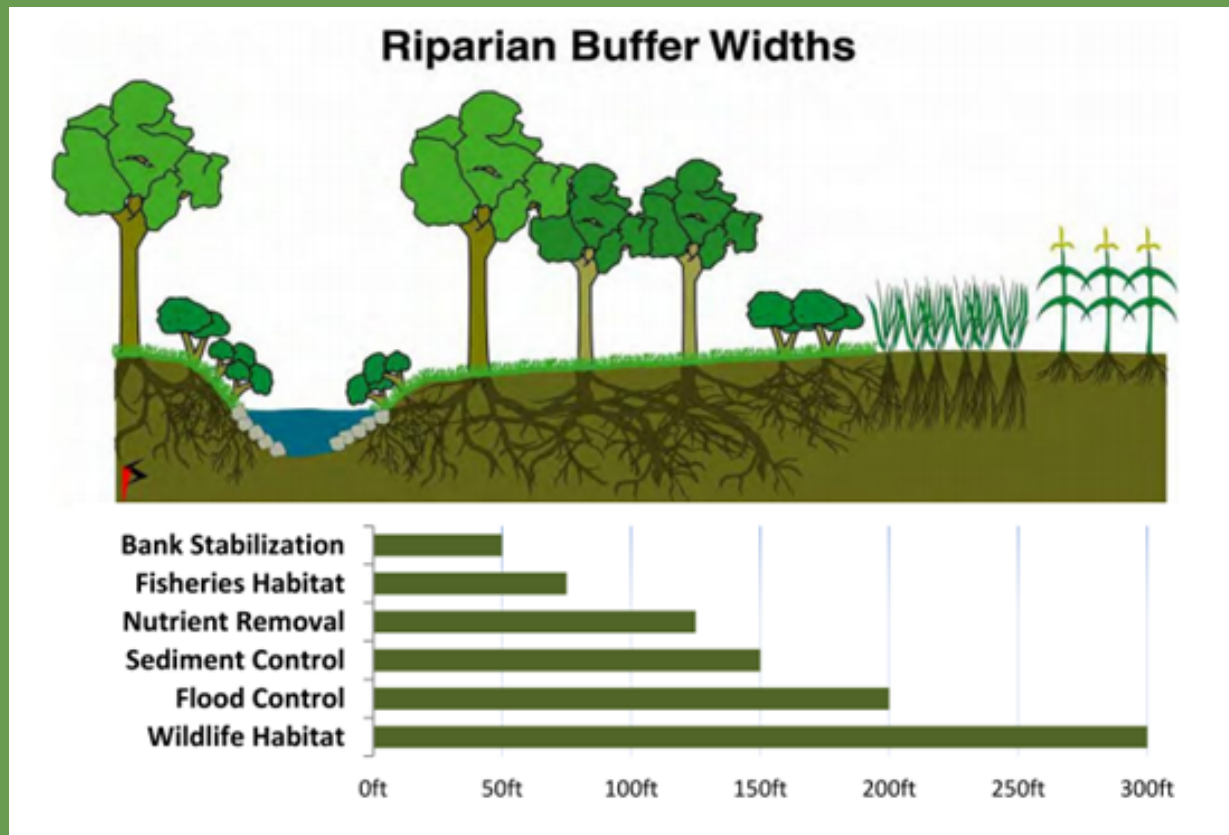
**THE  
PEMIGEWASSET  
RIVER AND THE  
RIVER'S  
TRIBUTARIES FLOW  
THROUGH THE  
HEART OF  
THORNTON.  
DO YOUR PART TO  
PROTECT THIS  
NATURAL  
RESOURCE FOR  
FUTURE  
GENERATIONS!**



# PROTECT THE PEMI

**TOWN OF THORNTON  
CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION**

A **riparian zone** is the interface between a river and the land, which includes all the area on either side of a river that is flooded during storm events or scoured during spring ice out. Riparian zones act as a buffer between the waterway and the surrounding land



## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Diverse Vegetation:** Keep naturally-occurring plants along the shoreline and avoid growing a lawn. From tall grasses to shrubs and mature trees, roots stabilize the bank during high water events which reduces shoreline erosion. Plants also provide better habitats for fish and wildlife.
- **Extend Riparian Buffer:** As a rule, the wider the buffer the more effective it is for protecting water quality and wildlife. The wider the buffer the more diverse wildlife it will support- chickadees and cardinals need 50 ft, bobcats prefer 300 ft and bald eagles and heron need about 600 ft.
- **Bank Stabilization:** Let the stream take its natural course. Putting in rip rap can actually make the erosion worse or shift it elsewhere on the river. There are bank and shoreline stabilization projects that can be undertaken to restore healthy and vegetated shoreline habitats, to help reduce erosion. Ask the Thornton Conservation Commission for resources about bank stabilization.
- **Septic System:** Maintain your septic system to reduce risk of pollution, it is generally recommended to pump your septic every three years.

## BENEFITS OF A HEALTHY RIPARIAN ZONE

- **Diversity of Plants and Animals:** Healthy river ecosystems attract a rich variety of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and plants.
- **Property Value:** Shoreland that is properly cared for has reduced chances of erosion and flooding, which minimizes the chances of damage to property and structures.
- **Town Resource:** Actions to protect the river protect a key natural resource that is part of Thornton's character, beauty, and recreational enjoyment.
- **Healthy Community Starts With A Healthy River:** The Pemi provides everything from clean drinking water to recreation opportunities to protecting fish and wildlife habitat.