

# Protect natural floodplain functions

---

Floodplains are lowland areas adjacent to lakes, wetlands and rivers that are covered by water during a flood. The most easily seen function of a floodplain is its ability to carry and store floodwaters. Undeveloped floodplain also provides many other natural and economic resource benefits. They have high biological diversity and productivity. Floodplain vegetation and soils serve as water filters, intercepting surface water runoff before it reaches nearby lakes. This process aids in the removal of excess nutrients, pollutants and sediments from the water and helps reduce the need for costly clean-ups and sediment removal. The floodplain also serves as a natural reservoir, temporarily holding flood waters and slowly releasing them, reducing the extent and frequency of flooding.

There are many ways to protect natural floodplain functions, including:

- Keeping areas of the floodplain in their natural state
- Preventing dumping in the floodplain
- Preserving natural drainage
- Controlling runoff
- Protecting wildlife habitats
- Requiring erosion control in new development

[Click here for more info on protecting floodplain resources.](#)

---