

A stylized illustration of a floodplain. At the top, a row of green pine trees sits on a green grassy bank. Below the bank is a blue body of water with white wavy lines representing ripples. The background is a solid teal color with white circles in the corners.

BENEFITS OF FLOODPLAINS

HEALTHY FLOODPLAINS YIELD MULTIPLE BENEFITS

SOURCE: WWW.NATURE.ORG
"Benefits of Floodplain by Design"

1

FLOOD PROTECTION

FLOODPLAINS PROVIDE A RIVER MORE ROOM AS IT RISES

2

IMPROVED WATER QUALITY

WHEN INUNDATED WITH WATER, FLOODPLAINS ACT AS NATURAL FILTERS, REMOVING EXCESS SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENTS, WHICH CAN DEGRADE WATER QUALITY AND INCREASE TREATMENT COSTS.

3

RECHARGED AQUIFERS

OUTSIDE OF A RIVER'S MAIN CHANNEL, WATER FLOW IS SLOWED AND HAS MORE TIME TO SEEP INTO THE GROUND WHERE IT CAN REPLENISH UNDERGROUND WATER SOURCES, WHICH SERVE AS A PRIMARY SOURCE OF WATER FOR COMMUNITIES

4

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

FLOODPLAINS ARE HOME TO SOME OF THE MOST BIOLOGICALLY RICH HABITATS ON EARTH. THEY PROVIDE SPAWNING GROUNDS FOR FISH AND CRITICAL AREAS OF REST AND FORAGING FOR MIGRATING WATERFOWL AND BIRDS.

5

RECREATIONAL INDUSTRIES

MANY OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES - LIKE FISHING, HUNTING, CAMPING, HIKING, WILDLIFE WATCHING AND BOATING - ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY OR GREATLY ENHANCED BY THE NATURAL PROCESSES OF RIVERS AND HEALTHY FLOODPLAINS.

6

REDUCED FLOOD INSURANCE AND DISASTER RECOVERY COST

PROTECTING FLOODPLAINS WILL REDUCE THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COSTS TO SUBSIDIZE FLOOD INSURANCE AND REDUCE POST-DISASTER DAMAGES. PROTECTING REGULARLY INUNDATED AREAS POSING THE HIGHEST FLOOD RISK CAN REDUCE THE CONSEQUENCES OF FLOODING - LOSS OF LIFE, STRUCTURES, AND CROPS - AND REDUCE REPETITIVE ECONOMIC LOSSES TO COMMUNITIES.