

Hog Creek



These pictures depict two segments of Hog Creek, one of the creeks that flows into Lake Thunderbird. The top picture shows a stream segment with a functioning riparian zone. The bottom picture shows a stream segment with an impaired riparian zone.



The Lake Thunderbird Watershed Alliance was formed in 2020 to work collaboratively with residents, communities and other stakeholders to protect the water quality of Lake Thunderbird. The LTWA also serves as a clearinghouse for Lake Thunderbird watershed-related implementation projects, research and outreach.

For more information about the LTWA visit the website at <https://LTWAOK.org>

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LAKE THUNDERBIRD
WATERSHED ALLIANCE



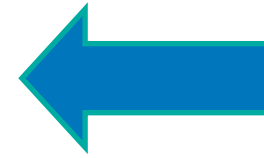
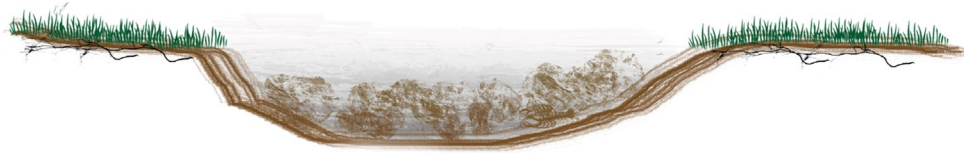
Why are Riparian Areas Important?

For Lake Thunderbird to be healthy, the streams flowing into the lake must be healthy. Functioning riparian areas protect stream health.

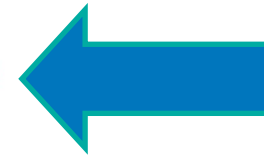


A riparian area is the natural zone of vegetation immediately adjacent to a waterbody.

Riparian areas are critically important to stream health.



Creeks with an impaired riparian area often suffer from eroding banks, turbid or cloudy water and higher water temperatures. Their simplified structure limits available habitat for macroinvertebrates and fish. They are more susceptible to pollution because they are not protected by vegetation that slows runoff and filters some pollutants, especially sediment.



Healthy riparian areas protect stream banks and shade the water. Cooler water is able to hold more dissolved oxygen, which is good for fish. Functioning riparian areas provide habitat for aquatic animals that live in the stream, but also for amphibious and terrestrial animals that utilize the stream corridor. Healthy riparian areas improve water quality by slowing runoff and filtering some pollutants before they reach the stream.