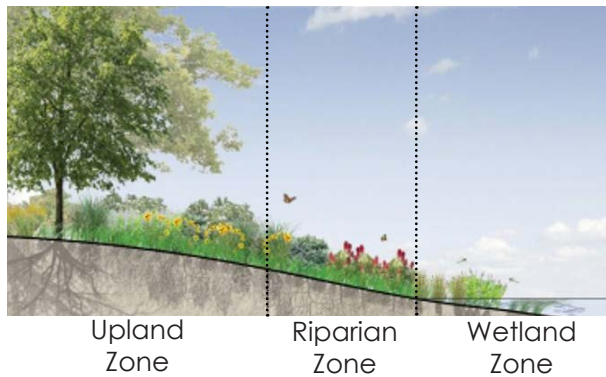


What does it do?

Native Vegetation Stabilizes the River Bank

- Helps clean the water
- Helps transfer stormwater energy
- Mitigates downstream flooding
- Contributes to nutrient cycling
- Provides habitat and supports wildlife
- Minimizes maintenance

Zones of a Healthy River Corridor



UPLAND ZONE

Slows material flows and filters large debris and trash

RIPARIAN ZONE

Further filters debris and captures organic matter for soil nutrient cycling

WETLAND ZONE

Provides bank stability and filters sediment

What can you do?

Stewardship

- **Do not mow to the river's edge.** Keep deep rooted vegetation along the banks to prevent erosion.
- **Avoid growing turfgrass up to the edge of your stream.** Turfgrass has shallow root systems that do little to stabilize banks.
- **Plant a mixture of native, deep-rooted wildflowers, sedges, rushes, grasses, shrubs, and trees.** Plant trees a minimum of 5' from the river bank.
- **Have patience** while revegetation germinates and establishes root systems.
- **Do not dump grass clippings or leaves along the river bank;** it will harm vegetation, eventually kill it, and contribute to erosion.
- **Maintain a setback from the river.** A buffer of native vegetation from lawns and other maintained landscapes is necessary to keep soils healthy.
- **Help control invasive plant species.** They crowd out native plants, reduce biological diversity, and threaten wildlife that relies on native plant communities for food, shelter, and breeding habitat.

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Native Vegetation
is the #1 resource
for protecting stream
banks from erosion



VILLAGE OF
RUIDOSO
NEW MEXICO

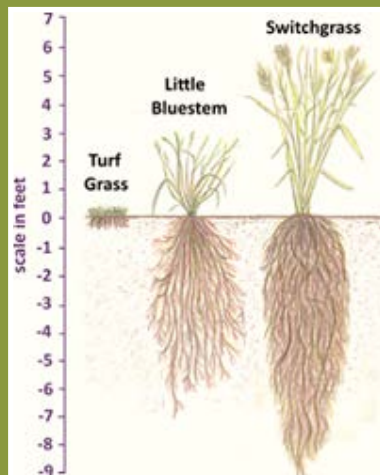


The most protective groundcover consists of a variety of plants.

Whereas turf grass contributes to erosion...



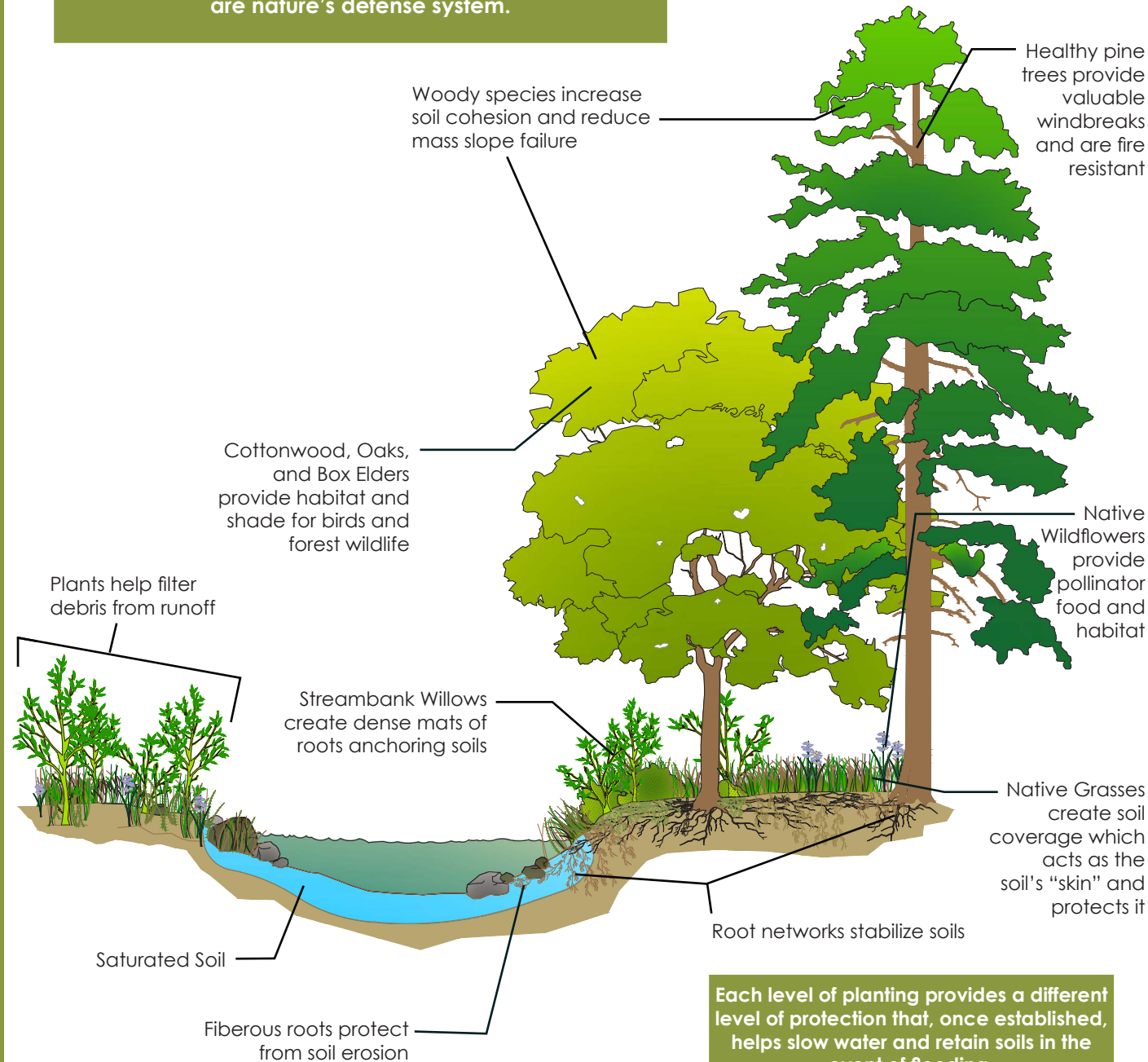
...the best soil coverage is a variety of plant species.



Mixed plantings form a root network tolerant of inundation.

Preserving Natural Buffers

Native plants left in their communities act as a shield against potential damage. They help hold soils, filter sediment, and provide wildlife habitat. Natural buffers are nature's defense system.



Each level of planting provides a different level of protection that, once established, helps slow water and retain soils in the event of flooding.