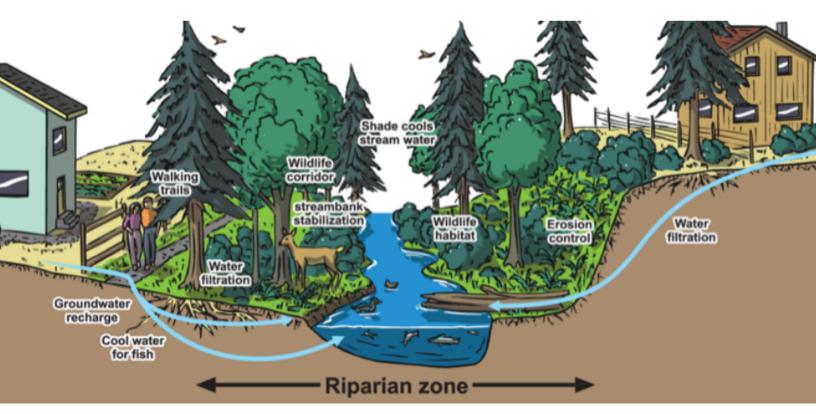
## THE RIPARIAN ZONE

- Shoreline ecosystems, or riparian zones, are very important and valuable habitat for land-based and water-based wildlife.
- The shoreline area includes the first 30 metres of land around a lake or river. It is considered the "ribbon of life" because it supports 70% of land-based wildlife and 90% of aquatic species at some point in their lifetime.
- Native wildlife species like birds, mammals, insects, fish, reptiles, and amphibians depend on shoreline habitat for food, water, shelter, and breeding.



Source: "Riparian Areas". (2021). Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society, https://www.cowichanlandtrust.ca/portfolio-items/riparian-areas/