

# Fort Wayne Riparian Management Plan

Fort Wayne, Indiana

**Riparian Buffers: Forests Standing Guard for Our Streams**  
NATURAL, VEGETATED AREAS ALONGSIDE WATERWAYS WORK HARD TO PROTECT OUR STREAM SYSTEMS.

**What do riparian buffers do?**

- Slow down and filter polluted stormwater and agriculture runoff
- Provide habitat for wildlife in and along the water
- Stabilize streambanks to prevent erosion
- Shade and cool the water so more things can live in it
- Help protect our communities from flooding
- Improve water quality
- Provide beauty and nature, even in the middle of cities

**Take care of them, and they take care of us.**  
Like an army of plants deployed by nature, riparian buffers are the first line of defense for our rivers and streams, so it is important that we keep them healthy.

**Enemies of Riparian Buffers:**

- Building in floodplains
- Grazing livestock
- Agricultural and stormwater runoff
- Hardened shorelines
- Paved surfaces
- Mowing to the water's edge
- Invasive species

**Be Nature's Ally: Protect Riparian Buffers**

- Plant native grasses, shrubs, and trees
- Remove invasive species that take over our native plants
- Support local policies that protect riparian buffers
- Volunteer with the Tri-state Watershed Alliance

riverfront biohabitats

*A plan for managing riparian corridors along Fort Wayne's 2+ mile riverfront redevelopment area helps ensure lasting revitalization.*

of a conceptual plan for revitalization, recreation, and stewardship along more than two miles of riverfront.

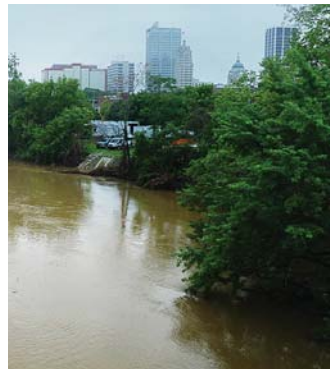
Recognizing that thriving riverfronts require healthy riparian corridors, the city turned to Biohabitats, a member of the Study team, to develop a riparian management plan for the study area. Building upon data gathered and analyses conducted during the Riverfront Redevelopment Study, Biohabitats conducted additional assessments of aquatic, terrestrial and near shore conditions, and analyzed river morphology and bank stability, as well as vegetation communities, soils, aquatic and riparian habitat, shoreline conditions, viewsheds, and urban infrastructure. The Biohabitats team then crafted the management plan, which includes site-specific guidelines

to enhance biodiversity and overall ecological functionality of riparian areas, protect and conserve riparian habitat, manage invasive species, and manage viewsheds. It also includes a job description and maintenance guidance for a Riparian Maintenance Manager and an interpretative graphic.

The riparian management plan will not only help protect the revitalized riverfronts of Fort Wayne's Riverfront Redevelopment study area; it also provides the City with a model for enhancing other riparian areas within city limits.

**SERVICES**

- Inventory & Assessments
- Planning
- Parks
- Design
- Green Infrastructure
- Public Outreach
- Policy



The confluence of the St. Joseph, St. Mary's and Maumee Rivers, located at the geographic center of Fort Wayne, was once the heart of the city's life, economy, and culture as well. Over past decades, however, these river systems had become underutilized and disconnected from the surrounding landscape as levees were installed along the rivers. In an effort to reestablish the rivers as the centerpiece of Fort Wayne and a world-class riverfront destination, the City of Fort Wayne launched a Riverfront Development Study, which led to the development

*conservation planning  
ecological restoration  
regenerative design*



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