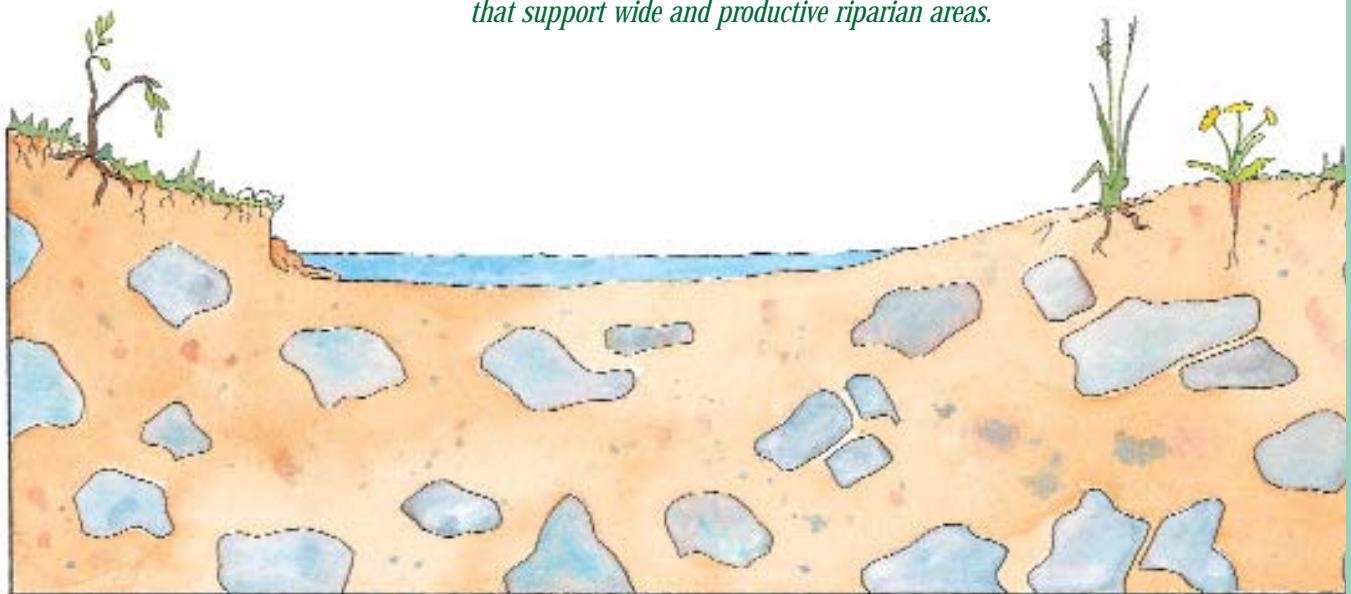


*Well-vegetated streams tend to be narrow and deep due to the binding nature of plants and their root systems. They tend to be stable and have groundwater tables that support wide and productive riparian areas.*



*Where vegetation has been removed by heavy grazing, logging or other development, the cohesive nature of streambanks breaks down and streams become wide and shallow. These channels can be unstable, with lower water tables that shrink the size of the riparian area and its productive nature.*

*Diverse, healthy vegetation has a major influence on stream channel shape and on shoreline stability.*