Fish kills can occur as a result of algae bloom, determining the existence of a diverse wildlife population.

Suitable habitat is the single most important factor high water quality and providing habitats for a diverse population of wildlife and fish, particularly when adjacent to cropland. A strip of forested buffer zones act in many ways to protect a variety of species, from small aquatic animals including insect larvae to larger gamefish species such as bass.

Forested banks help make streams suitable for many kinds of fish and other aquatic creatures. Tree roots in the soil and vegetation along the banks serve as a filter for pollutants, much like the steel refining of water. The riparian zone vegetation and soil can absorb and retain sediments and other pollutants in it.

Grazed riparian zone vegetation and soil can be equally important to birds and other creatures as they journey up and down the river's banks. Riparian vegetation is also an important habitat for many kinds of birds, including hawks, owls, herons and songbirds. Temporary protective pathways for the safe movement of fish. The purity of water in our lakes and streams can be protected from the effects of nonpoint source pollution by the presence of forested buffer strips.

Ohio's Streamside Forests

LITTLE BEAVER CREEK

The many trees and plants growing along our rivers are equally important to birds and other creatures as they journey up and down the riverbanks. Riparian vegetation provides habitat and food for many kinds of birds, including hawks, owls, herons and songbirds. Temporary protective pathways for the safe movement of fish. The purity of water in our lakes and streams can be protected from the effects of nonpoint source pollution by the presence of forested buffer strips.

Our Rivers: So Much More Than Water