

Let this factsheet guide you through the potentially muddy waters of watershed language.



RIPARIAN AREAS

Lands adjacent to water bodies where the vegetation and soils are strongly influenced by the presence of water. Healthy riparian areas protect waterways from the effects of human activities in the uplands and also stabilize the bank, protecting the uplands from erosion.

WATERSHED

An area of land that catches precipitation and drains it into a particular body of water. The Fish Creek watershed includes all the land that drains through Fish Creek and eventually ends up in the Bow River.

SURFACE RUN-OFF

occurs when rain or snowmelt saturates the soil, allowing excess liquid to run off the surface. In urban areas, impermeable surfaces such as roofs, driveways, and roads contribute to high surface run-off causing erosion and transporting contaminants to nearby water bodies.

EROSION

occurs when wind, water, ice, etc. remove rock and soil. Healthy riparian vegetation can decrease shoreline erosion.

