

River Otters of South Florida

ROSF



Otter Information

Primary River Otter Habitat



The Riparian Zone

The Riparian Zone is a distinct habitat where the vegetation of the shoreline meets the flowing waters of creeks, streams, and rivers. The word Riparian is derived from the Latin word “ripa” which means river bank. The vegetation of the riparian zone is composed primarily of woodlands. It is this river bank environment where the day-to-day activities of the North American river otter, as well as other otters of the world, occurs. The Riparian Zone is also used to refer to the area where the woodland vegetation surrounding lakes meets the water of a lake.

The Riparian Zone is the transitional area between woodland vegetation and the water’s edge and functions as a biofilter and protects “...the aquatic ecosystem from excessive sedimentation, polluted runoff, and erosion.” (<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-is-a-riparian-zone/html>.)

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