

THE FLOODPLAIN OF PRAIRIEWALK POND

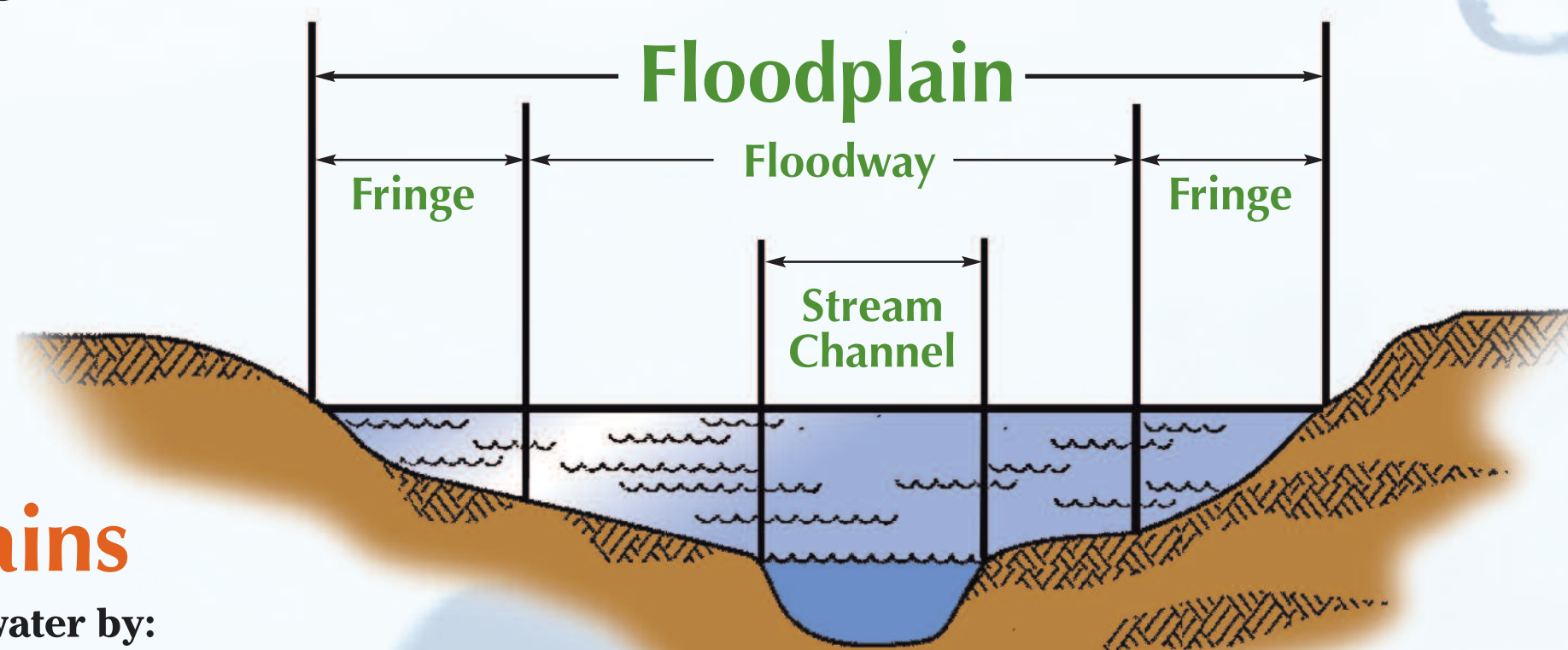


What is a Floodplain?

This site is located in the floodplain of the East Branch of the DuPage River. A floodplain is the land adjacent to a stream that experiences occasional flooding. It includes three parts: the stream channel, the floodway and the flood fringe. The stream channel usually contains running water throughout the year. The floodway includes the channel and the area next to it that also carries flowing water during a rainstorm. The flood fringe may flood during a heavy rain storm, but water is typically stagnant here and does not move.



Halloween Pennant Dragonfly



Benefits of Natural Floodplains

Floodplains provide a safe, natural way to handle stormwater by:

- Slowing the flood water's speed to help reduce damage and soil erosion
- Enabling the flood water to soak into the soil which replenishes the supply of ground water. As less water flows downstream, flooding is reduced
- Helping to cool the flood water's temperature which reduces the harmful effects of warm water on aquatic plants, fish and animals
- Feeding and sheltering wildlife and serving as corridors that connect wildlife populations. Floodplain plants (called riparian vegetation) stabilize the soil, filter out contaminants, improve water quality and provide habitat



Look Closer!

Note the level of the pond - has there been a recent storm here?

PrairieWalk Pond is a Stormwater Basin

Stormwater basins capture and hold rainfall, releasing it slowly into a stream. This mitigates flooding. To create this area, the Village of Lisle purchased twenty three parcels of land along Garfield and Lincoln Avenues that had chronic flooding problems and built this pond. Normally, the pond is about **8 feet deep** in the center. Rain water from Downtown Lisle is directed into the pond by underground storm sewers. During a storm, the pond's water level will rise up to **3.5 feet above the normal level**. At peak capacity, the pond can hold **2.8 million gallons of stormwater**. This water is slowly released into a storm sewer that takes it across Route 53, then into an open channel that flows into the East Branch of the DuPage River, just south of Ogden Avenue. When water in the river is also high, pond water is prevented from entering the river and will remain in the pond and open channel until the high flows have passed.

Do you live in a floodplain or close to streams or rivers?
Visit www.villageoflisle.org/discover to learn more.