

# Down by the River

All over New Brunswick there are plants and animals that have a special connection with the water. Our streams and rivers, and their shorelines provide essential habitats which must be protected from destructive human activities. Without those habitats, local species extinctions will occur.

**Notice to Teachers**  
For more information and for class activities on these aquatic habitats, download the accompanying activity sheet at [www.conservationcouncil.ca](http://www.conservationcouncil.ca)



## The Beginning of a River

All rivers start as small, temporary, and intermittent streams that drain higher lands and combine as they flow downhill. These tiny streams are the *headwaters* of the river, and as the water flows toward the sea, increasingly larger streams feed into it, creating a river.



## Wetlands

Areas that have standing water or very wet soils year-round, such as swamps and bogs, are called *wetlands*. Wetlands are critical wildlife habitats because they contain species of plants, insects, mosses and lichens, and animals that cannot survive in dryer ecosystems.



## Vernal Pools

When snow melts in the spring and spring rains come, water collects into temporary pools called *vernal pools*. Most pools are found in the forest and usually last only for two to nine weeks before drying up. Several amphibian species breed almost exclusively in vernal pools because there are no fish present to prey on the eggs and tadpoles.



## Streamside Vegetation

The area along stream or river margins is called the *riparian forest*. Riparian forests provide habitat for water-loving wildlife, like frogs, salamanders, turtles, insects, beavers, river otters, and many other species that come to drink, feed, or lay their eggs.



## Cold Shaded Pools

Several fish species need *cold shaded pools* in rivers to keep cool and to survive hot summer water temperatures. Atlantic salmon in particular are sensitive to overheating and must be protected.



To learn more about how New Brunswick streams and rivers are interconnected with our forest activities, visit [www.acadianforest.ca](http://www.acadianforest.ca)



Conservation Council of New Brunswick  
Conseil de conservation du Nouveau-Brunswick