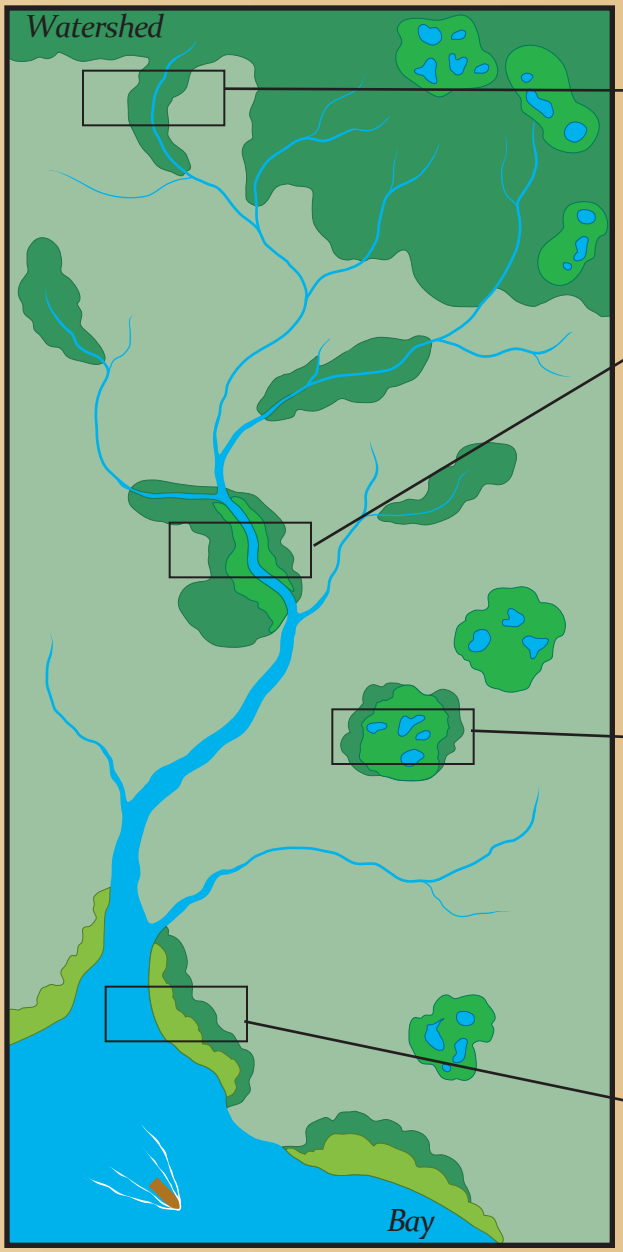
Wetlands & Waterways of the Inland Bays Watershed

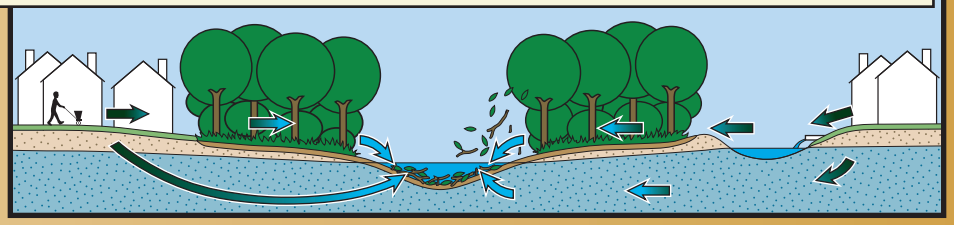


Flow of Water

More polluted → Less polluted

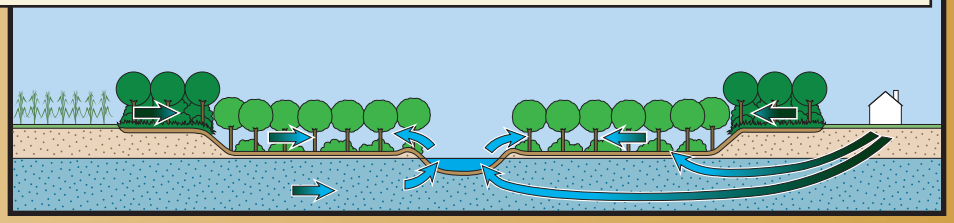
Headwaters

- Are closest to landuses such as development and receive the highest concentrations of pollutants.
- Forested buffers filter pollutants from surface water runoff and groundwater.
- The roots, leaves, and branches from the forested buffers slows water in the channel filtering more nutrients and decreasing pollution downstream.



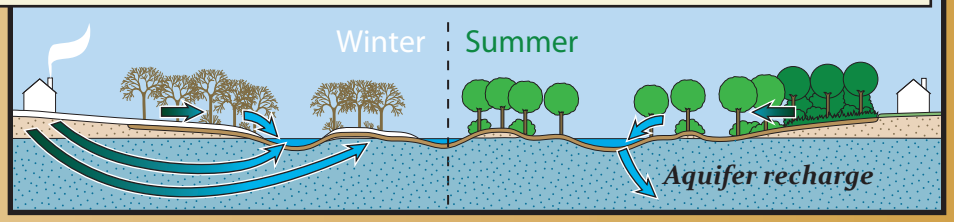
Larger Streams & Riverine Wetlands

- Are fed mostly by groundwater and floodwaters from upstream.
- The wetlands filter pollutants and store floodwaters from the stream.
- Forested buffers protect stream channels and their wetlands because they work together to filter nutrients.



Flats & Depressional Wetlands

- Are very important for habitat and water quality, but many are not legally protected.
- In winter and summer they store and filter ground and surface water .
- In summer they also can supply clean water to drinking water aquifers.



Saltmarshes

- Saltmarshes filter and store great amounts of nutrients in their grasses and soils.
- Saltmarshes need wide buffers because they move landward as sea level rises.
- Rising sea level reduces salt marsh area, which reduces capacity to filter nutrients.
- Sea levels are expected to rise faster in the coming years.