

# Oklahoma Source Water Protection Program Green Infrastructure Natural Assets



Updated November 2024

## What Are Natural Assets?

Natural Assets are land areas and other natural features which the utility may or may not own. Natural systems relevant to water utilities include lakes, rivers, streams, aquifers, and other surrounding features such as forested watersheds, grasslands, meadows, and wetlands that interface with riparian/aquatic resources and their ecosystem functions.

## Forests and Woodlands

A dense growth of trees and underbrush covering a significant area.

## Waterbodies

Larger bodies of water such as creeks, rivers, ponds, and lakes.

## Stream Corridor

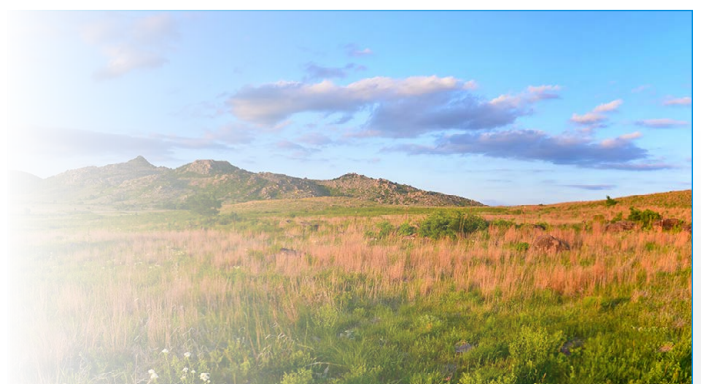
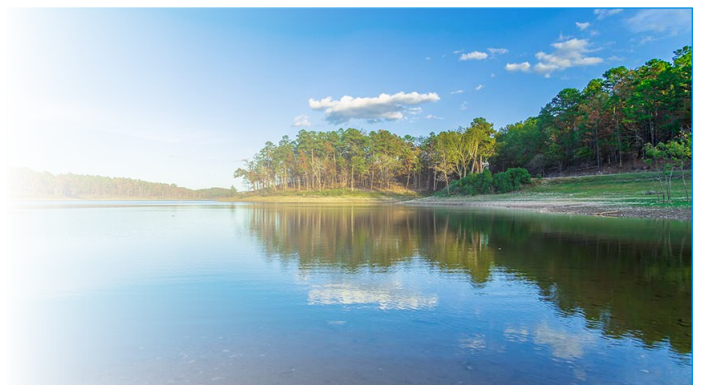
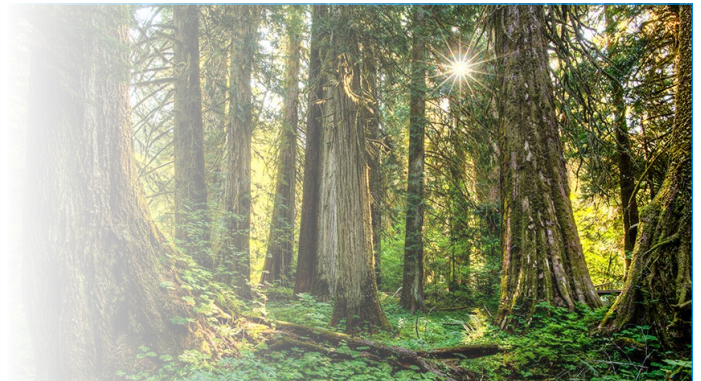
A complex ecosystem comprised of stream channels, banks and riparian areas, and the plants and animals within.

## Meadows

An area that is free of woods and buildings and is usually populated primarily by grasses, shrubs, and other non-woody plants.

## Wetlands













Areas that are often covered intermittently with shallow water or have soil saturated with moisture. Examples include marshes and swamps.



# Green Infrastructure Natural Assets

## Benefits of Natural Assets

Each type of natural asset may contribute to varying ecosystem functions and may provide multiple benefits to the areas in which they are present.

Function	Natural Asset	Benefits
<b>Soil Quality and Erosion Management</b>	Forests and woodlands Water bodies Stream corridors Wetlands Meadows Trees (non-forest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Protection of drinking water</li> <li> Risk reduction to property from flooding</li> <li> Protection of recreational fisheries</li> <li> Provision of safe recreational areas, including shoreline erosion control</li> </ul>
<b>Water Quality Management</b>	Forests and woodlands Water bodies Stream corridors Wetlands Meadows Trees (non-forest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Protection of drinking water</li> <li> Improving recreational value of receiving waters for swimming, fishing and boating</li> <li> Flood protection and risk reduction to property and human life</li> </ul>
<b>Air Quality Management</b>	Forests and woodlands Wetlands Meadows Trees (non-forest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Contribution to public health such as reduction in asthma and providing carbon sinks for mitigation of greenhouse gases</li> </ul>
<b>Vegetation and Wildlife Management</b>	Forests and woodlands Water bodies Stream corridors Wetlands Meadows Trees (non-forest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Contribution to local food systems such as pollination for food crops</li> <li> Contribution to public health</li> <li> Contribution to recreation and tourism</li> <li> Property value appreciation</li> </ul>

## Contact DEQ:

Reach out to the Capacity Development Section via email or phone and request to participate in the **FREE** program.

**Email:** [DEQ.CapDev@deq.ok.gov](mailto:DEQ.CapDev@deq.ok.gov)

**Phone:** (405) 702-8141

You can also visit the DEQ website for more info, helpful resources, and to sign up for the program. <https://tinyurl.com/44hsyfut>

