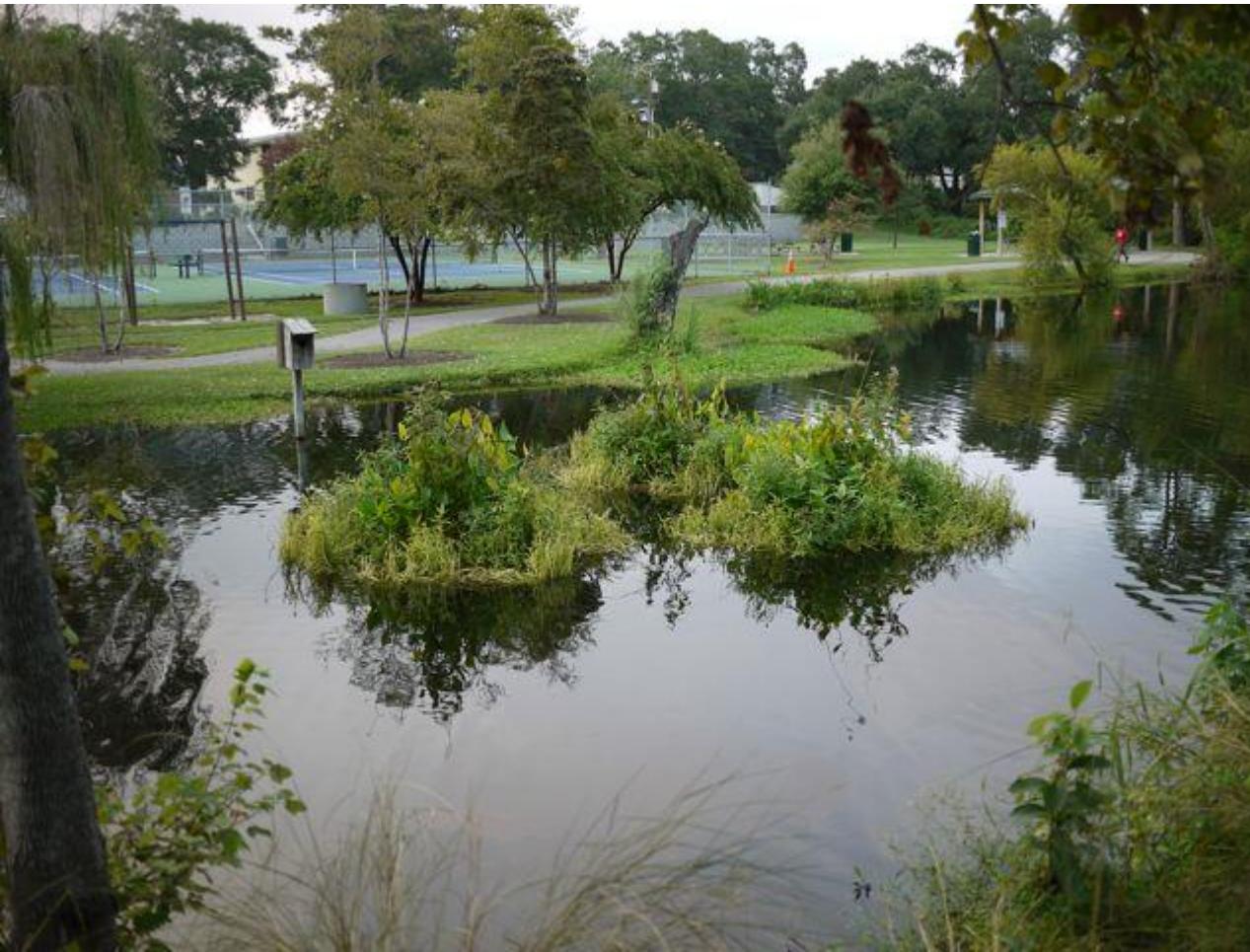


# Plants and Ponds:

*Managing Ponds for Aesthetic and Environmental Enrichment*



# Objectives

- The Role of Plants for Managing Pond Health: An Overview
- Plant Selections for Ponds
- The “Do’s and Don’ts” of Planting Ponds

# The Role of Plants for Managing Pond Health: An Overview

- Filter runoff
- Slows down water (erosion control)
- Facilitate denitrification
- Nutrient uptake
- Bank stability
- Aquatic and terrestrial habitat preservation
- Provide food source (leaf litter)
- Wildlife habitat
- Shade channel
- Scares geese!



# The Role of Plants for Managing Pond Health: An Overview

Aesthetics!

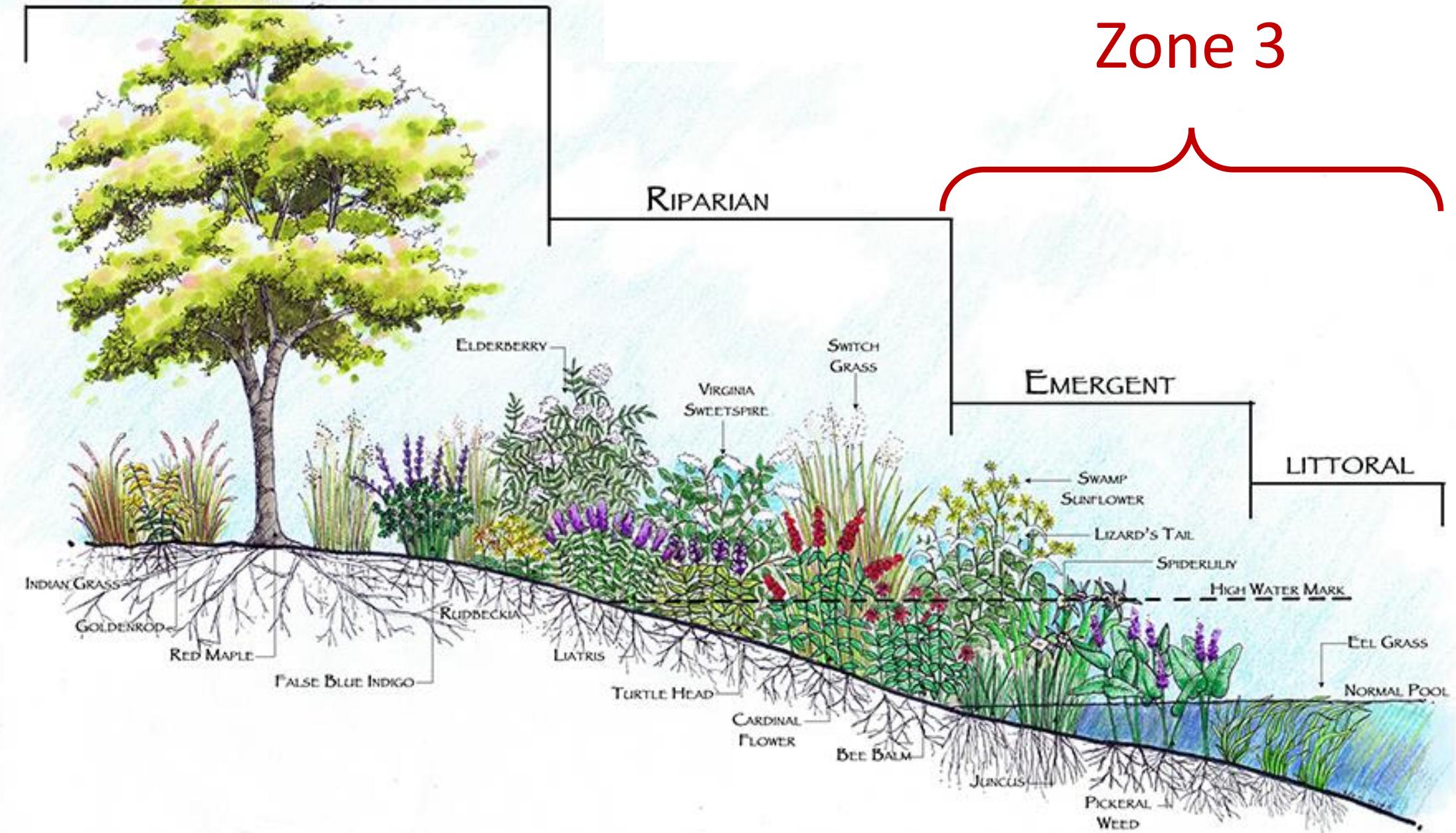


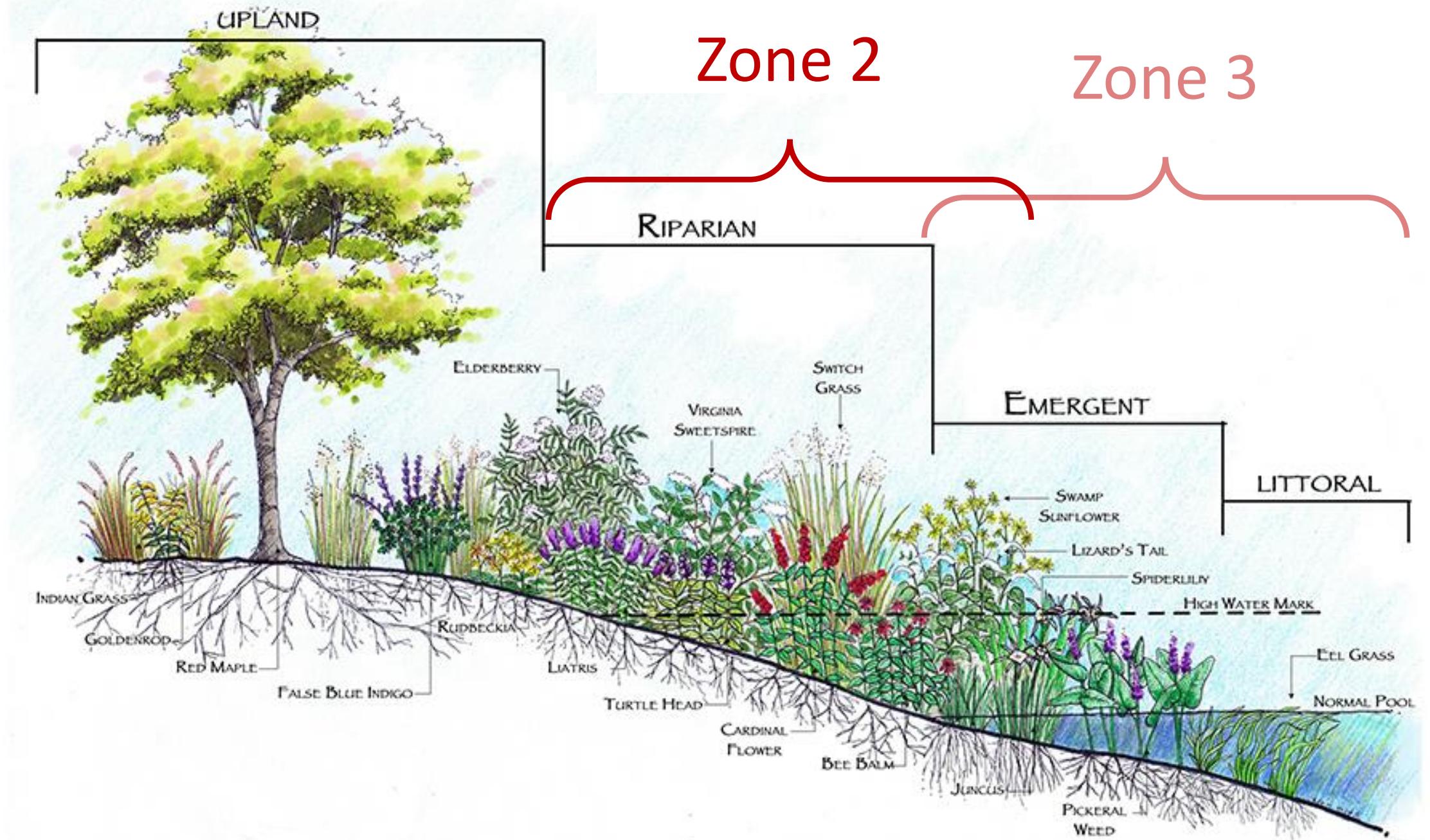
# The Role of Plants for Managing Pond Health: An Overview

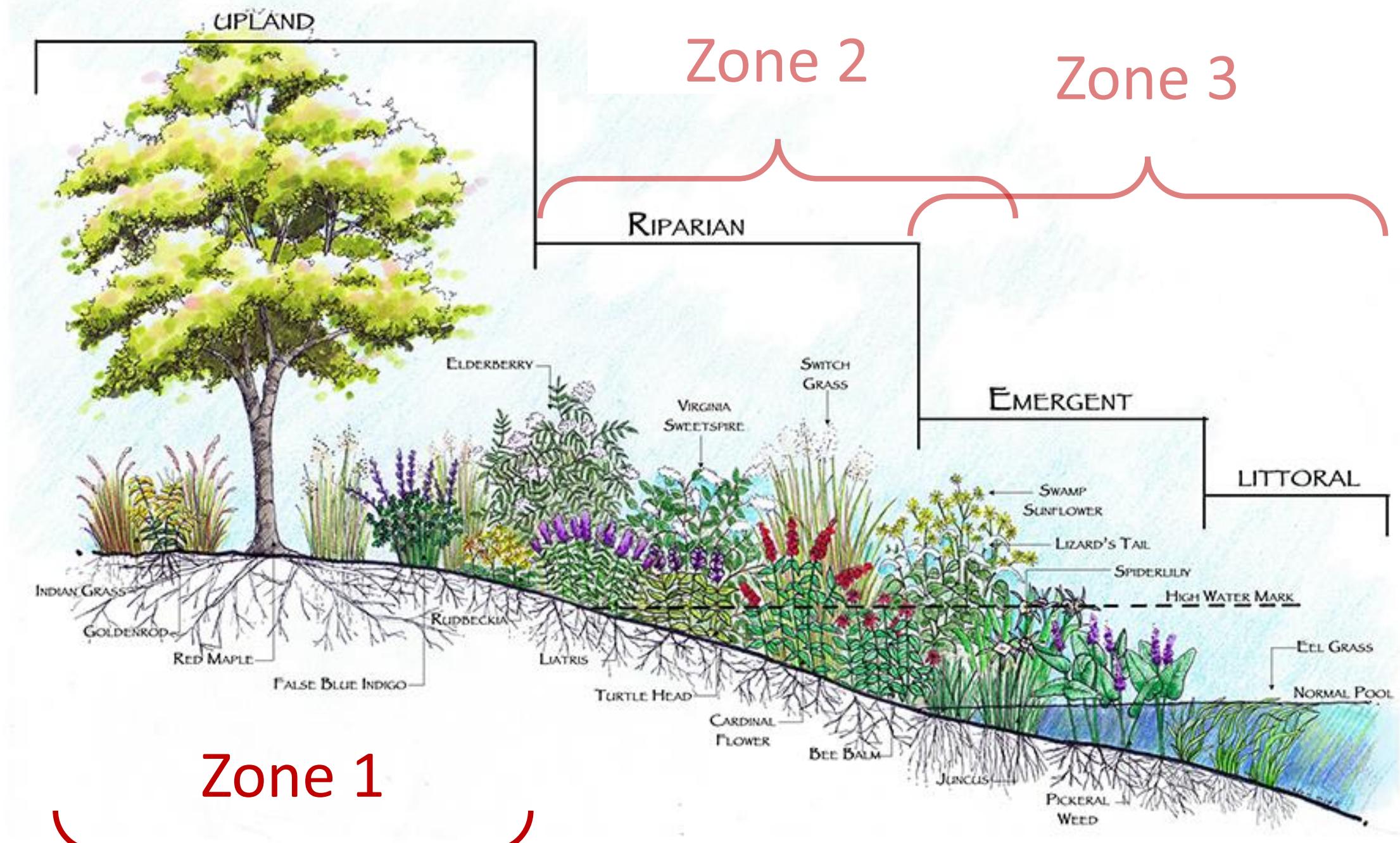
Aesthetics!



# Zone 3



















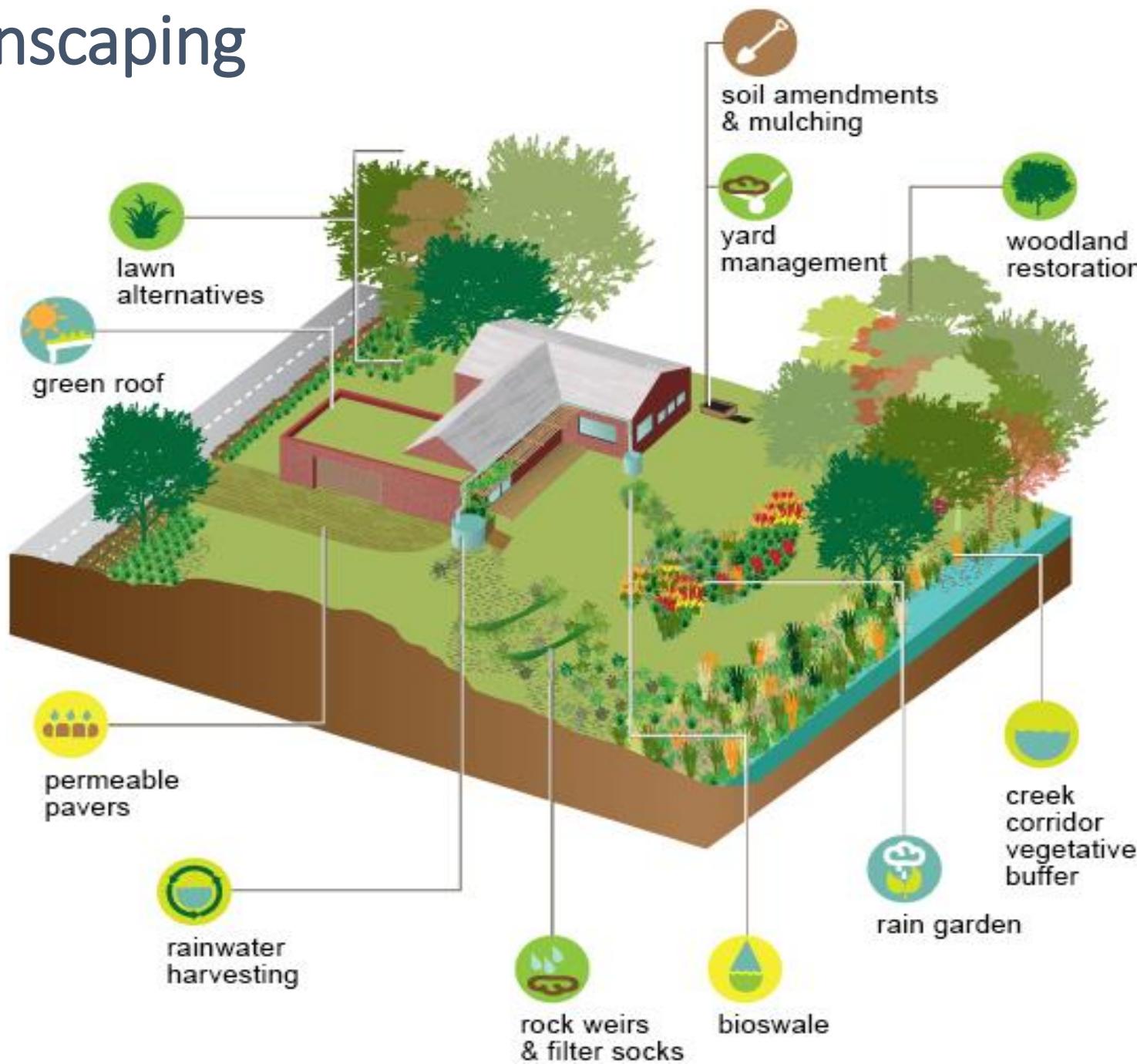


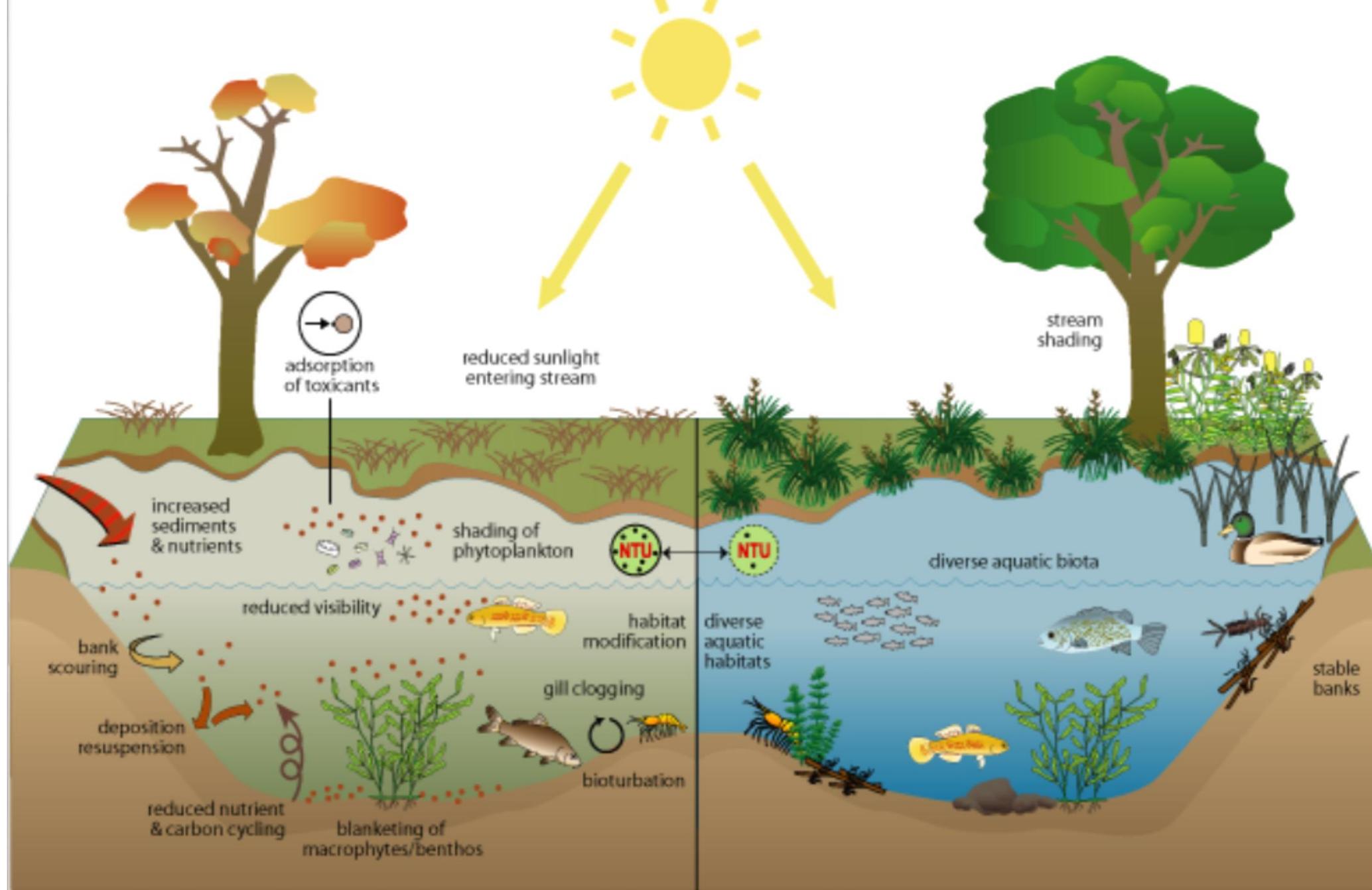






# ... Rainscaping





Turbidity, WetlandInfo, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Queensland, viewed 9 May 2013,  
<http://wetlandinfo.ehp.qld.gov.au/wetlands/ecology/aquatic-ecosystems-natural/riverine/background/turbidity.html>.

# The Role of Plants for Managing Pond Health: An Overview

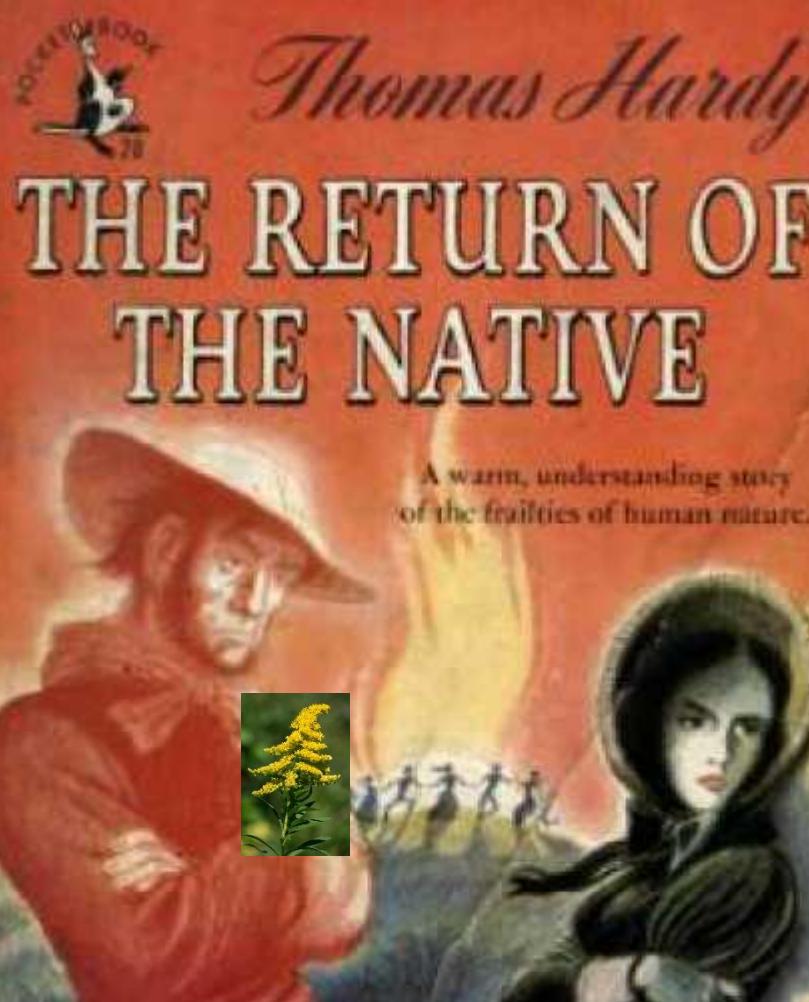
Nutrient and some heavy metal uptake

Enhance infiltration

Soil stabilization and manage excess runoff water

Provide wildlife habitat

Provide aesthetic appeal and can blend into landscape



# The Role of Plants for Managing Pond Health: An Overview

## Why Native Plants?

Accustomed to our local climate, soils, & insects

Low maintenance (fertilizer, pesticides, growth habits)

Help with introduction and spread of invasive plants

Beautiful selections

Attract more beneficial insects



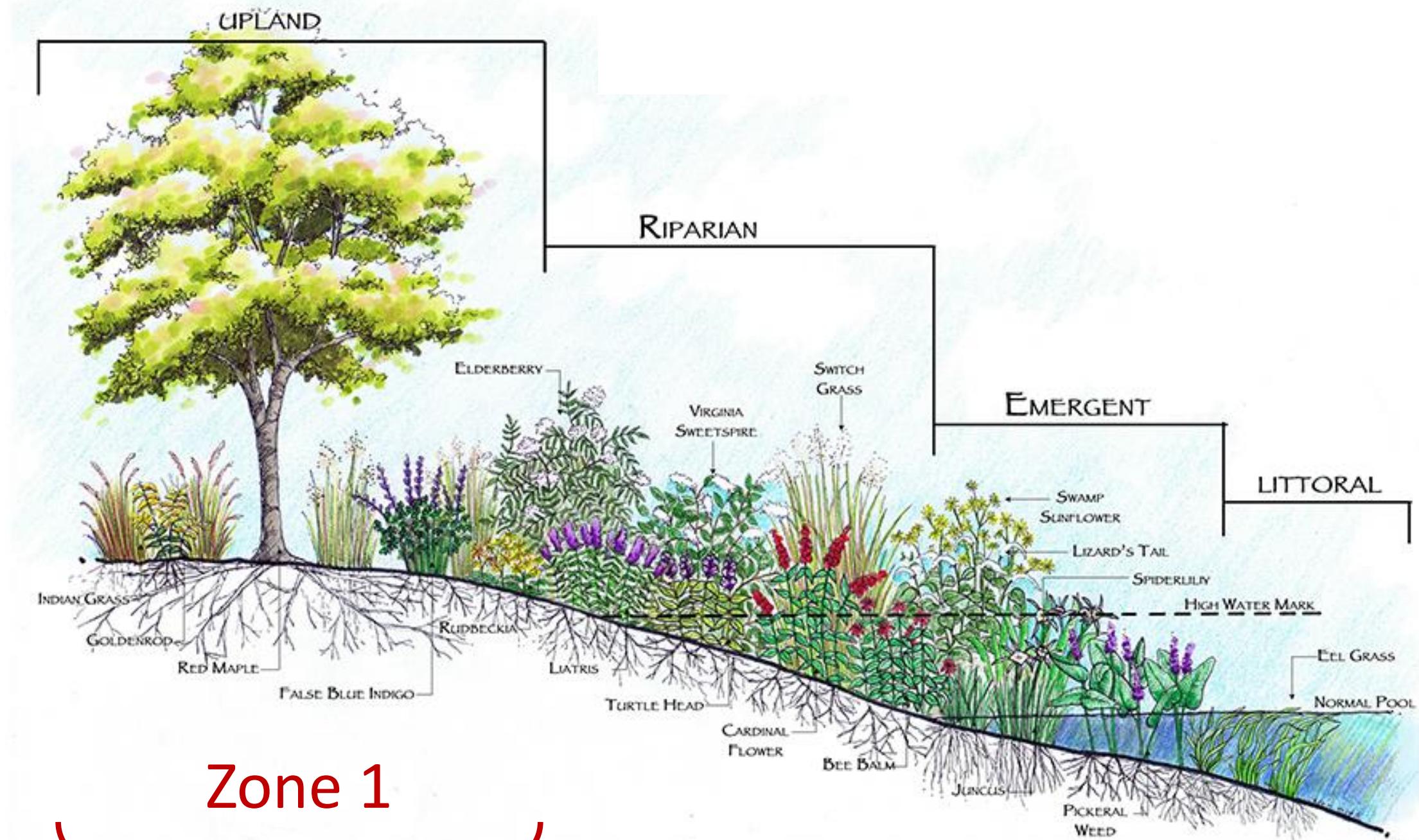
# The Role of Plants for Managing Pond Health: An Overview

It depends on...

- Moisture
- Sun/shade
- Seasonality
- Habitat and aesthetic preferences
- Availability

# Objectives

- The Role of Plants for Managing Pond Health: An Overview
- Plant Selections for Ponds



Zone 1

# Plant Selections for Zone 1

## Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

- Perennial; red blooms in fall
- Part shade—to sun
- 3-5' tall
- Space 15-18" apart
- Hummingbirds!

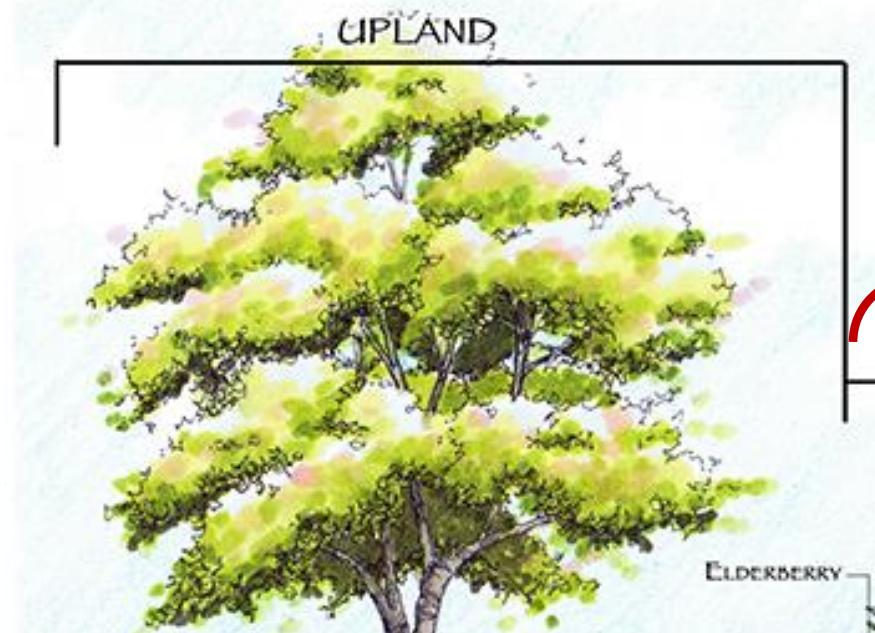


# Plant Selections for Zone 1

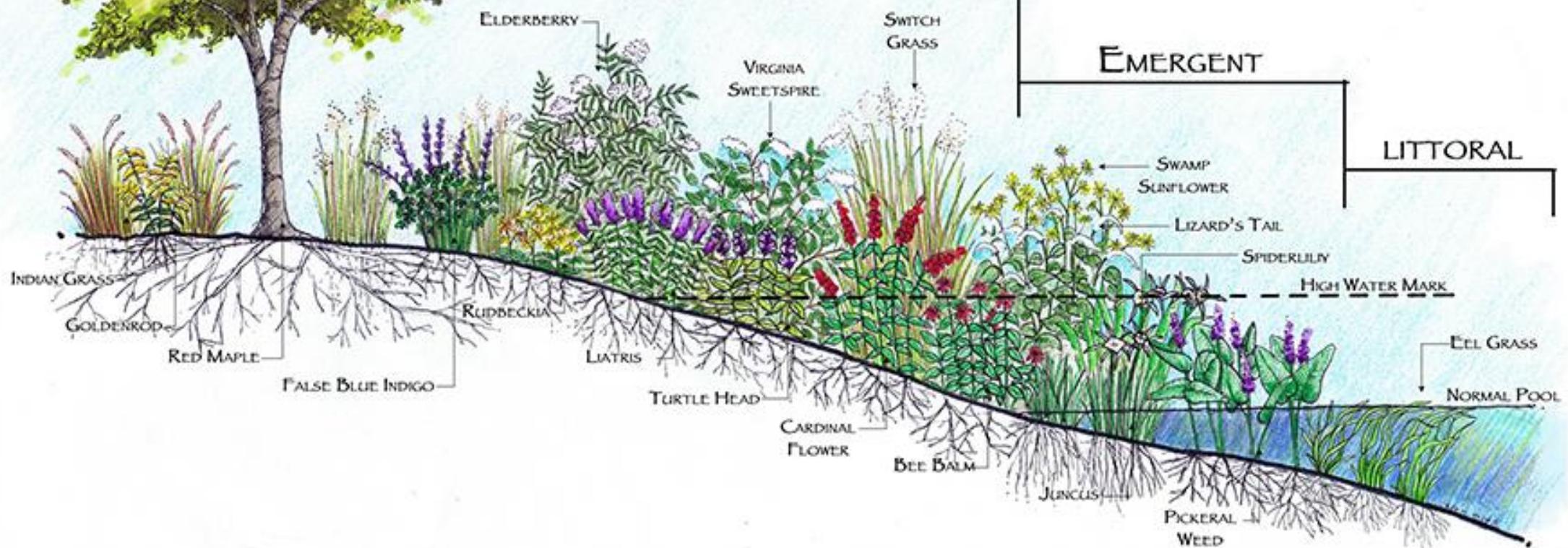
## Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)

- Perennial; pink florets in the fall
- Full sun
- 3-4' tall
- Space 2-3' apart
- Rain gardens; dry areas





## Zone 2



# Plant Selections for Zone 2

## Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*)

- Perennial; yellow flowers April—May
- Part shade—shade
- 1-3' tall
- Space 15-18" apart



# Plant Selections for Zone 2

## Scarlet rosemallow (*Hibiscus coccineus*)

- Perennial; large red flowers (up to 6") in mid-summer
- Full sun
- 4-7' tall!
- Space 2-3' apart



# Plant Selections for Zone 2

## Blue Flag Iris (*Iris versicolor*)

- Perennial bulb; purple blooms in early summer
- Full sun
- 2-3' tall!
- Space 2' apart



# Plant Selections for Zone 2

## Sweet Flag (*Acorus gramineus*)

- Grass; foliar interest
- Part shade to full sun
- Low, mounding plant; 1'
- Space 1/2" apart



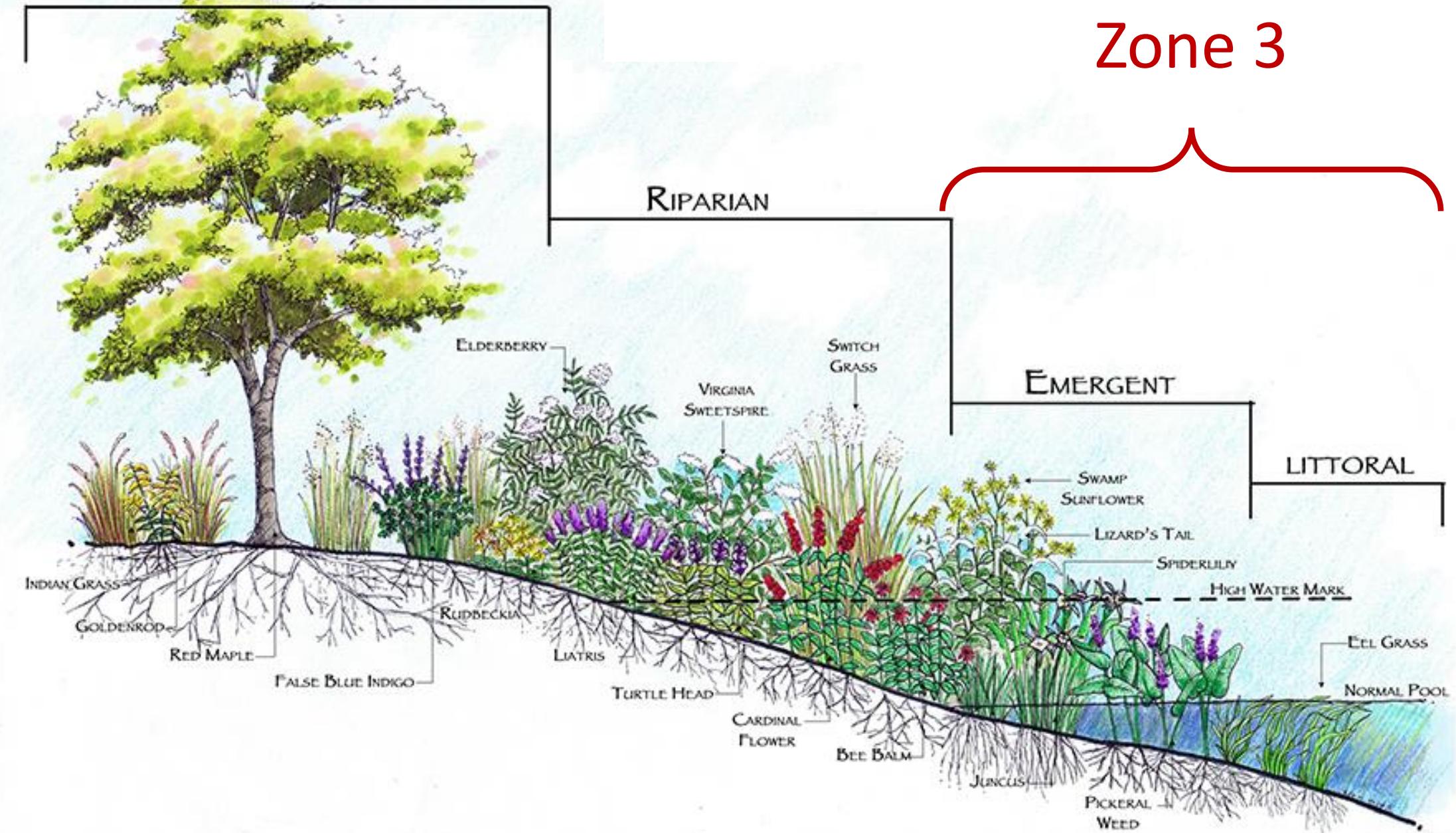
# Plant Selections for Zone 2

## Water (Golden) Canna (*Canna flaccida*)

- Wonderful yellow flowers in summer
- Full sun
- 3-5'
- Space 1'



# Zone 3



# Plant Selections for Zone 3

## Soft-stem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*)

- Rush; upright erect
- Slender green stems
- 6-8' tall
- Space 12" apart



# Plant Selections for Zone 3

## Lizard's Tail (*Saururus cernuus*)

- Majority of plant submersed in water
- Heart-shaped leaves
- 5' tall
- Spreads by rhizomes



# Plant Selections for Zone 3

## Pickerel weed (*Pontederia cordata*)

- Completely aquatic
- Large, heart-shaped leaves
- Long, purple flower stalks
- Good cover for wildlife



# Plant Selections for Zone 3

Duck potato, bulltongue (*Sagittaria* sp.)

- Large, arrow-shaped leaves
- Fully aquatic; submersed
- White flowers



# Objectives

- The Role of Plants for Managing Pond Health: An Overview
- Plant Selections for Ponds
- The “Do’s and Don’ts” of Planting Ponds

# The Do's and Don'ts of Planting Ponds

## The Do's:

- Plant for diversity
- Plant for seasonality
- Plant for functionality
- Divide!



# The Do's and Don'ts of Planting Ponds

## The Do's:

- Plant for diversity
- Plant for seasonality
- Plant for functionality
- Divide!
- Account for minimum buffer strips
- Early spring and Fall are the best times to plant



# The Do's and Don'ts of Planting Ponds

## The Don'ts:

- Mow down to pond edges
- Avoid pesticides
- Plant invasive plant species;  
some natives as well

