

Riparian Restoration Gonzales Ranch



Our goals:

- To learn the story of STRAW
- To be able to explain what makes a healthy habitat for animals and people
- To make a difference

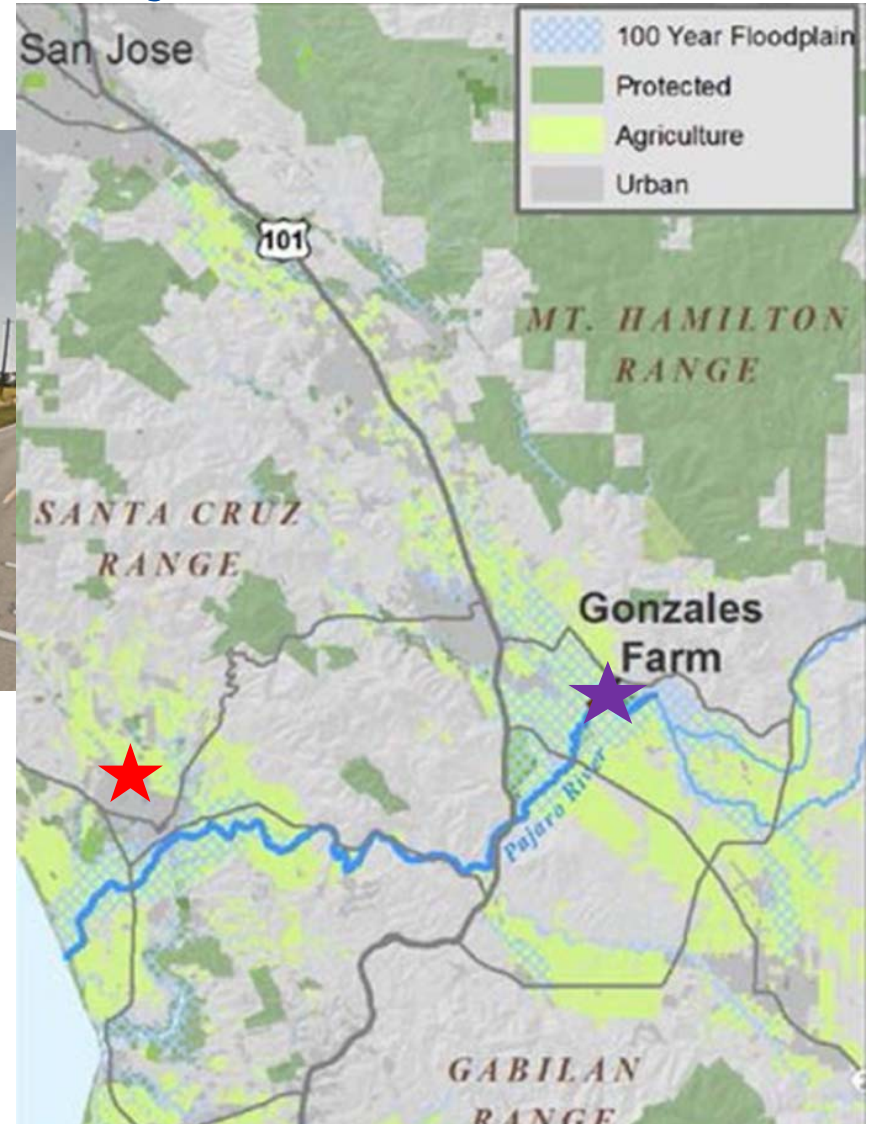


What river do you live near?



Where are we going?

Gonzales Ranch & Pajaro River



What is a Riparian Zone?

- Riparian means “bank side” in Latin
- Rivers are always changing, forming and reforming habitat

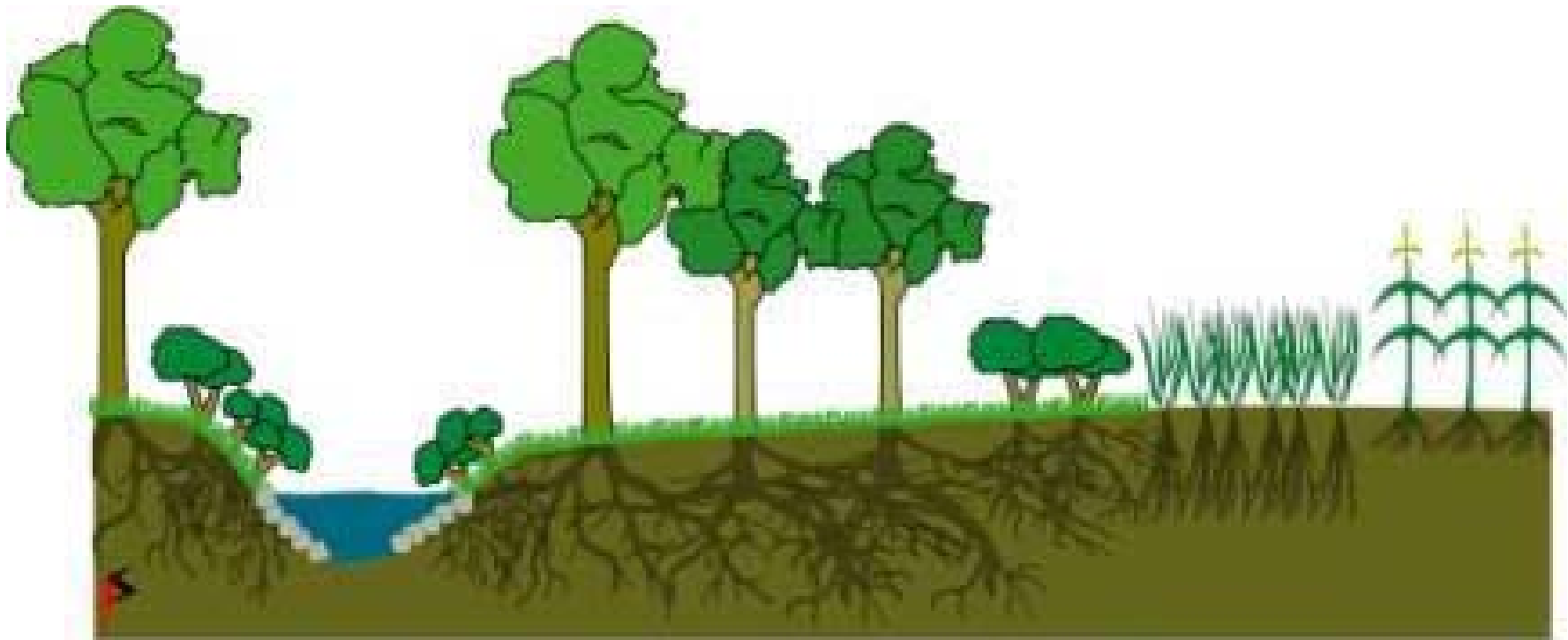


What makes a healthy riparian zone?



Healthy Riparian Zone

- Tall trees shade the creek
- Roots of plants hold the soil
- Fallen logs create habitat for animals, slow the pace of the stream
- Meandering slows the pace of the stream



Riparian Zones

Healthy



Unhealthy



What is going on in our neighborhood?

- Biodiversity of plants and animals
 - Bio= life
 - Diversity= variety
- Changes
 - Such as climate change

Biodiversity of Native Animals

- Different kinds of **animals** need different kinds of **plants** for habitats and food



Mountain Lion



Badger



Gray Fox

Biodiversity of Native Plants

- Different **plants** need different kinds of **animals** to spread their seeds



Cottonwood tree



California rose



Blue Elderberry

Activity: Draw a healthy Riparian zone (Area next to a river)

Think about:

- Shape of river
- What is right next to the river?
- What is underground next to the river?
- Biodiversity (plants and animals)

What challenges do our rivers and surrounding lands face?



Point Blue

Poor water quality



Erosion



Increase in invasive species

English ivy



Himalayan/ Armenian
Blackberry



Harding grass



Point Blue

Conservation science
for a healthy planet.

Climate change

- Increased droughts
- Sea level rise



Less food and homes for native animals

Western Pond Turtle



California Tiger Salamander



California Red-legged Frog



California Tiger Salamander



- Amphibian
- Lives in burrows and ponds
- Threatened species in California

Small populations left, may become endangered.



What can we do to improve the Pajaro River ?



How do we plant trees and shrubs?



Paul Martin's Ranch, Stemple Creek Before Planting



Same location, 10 years after planting



Before planting



2 years



6 years



8 years



How do I prepare for a day of watershed restoration?

- Bring:
 - Lunch
 - Full water bottle or 2
 - Plastic bag
- Wear:
 - Boots or closed-toed shoes that can get dirty
 - Layers- rain jacket, fleece jacket
 - Long pants
 - Hat and sunscreen

