LAKE CONESTEE
NATURE PARK
DISCOVER A WORLD APART.

Loop 2

Station 5

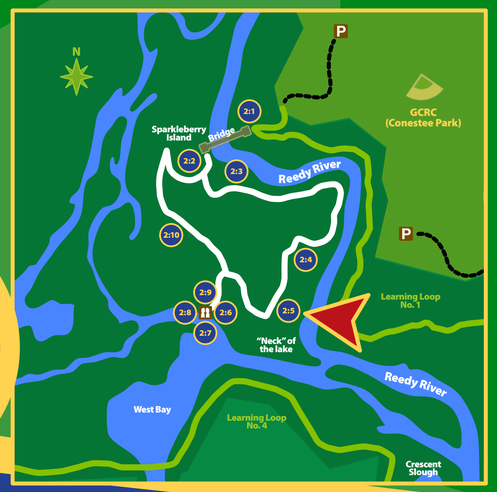
Learning Loops

Hardwoods of the bottoms

Oak trees thrive in the bottomland forest. The vegetative edge, illustrated at right, offers unique habitats with easy access to adjacent communities and therefore can support more plants and animals from these adjacent communities. These species can adapt and increase the areas biodiversity.

Do trees grow faster in the "bottoms" than they do in the uplands?

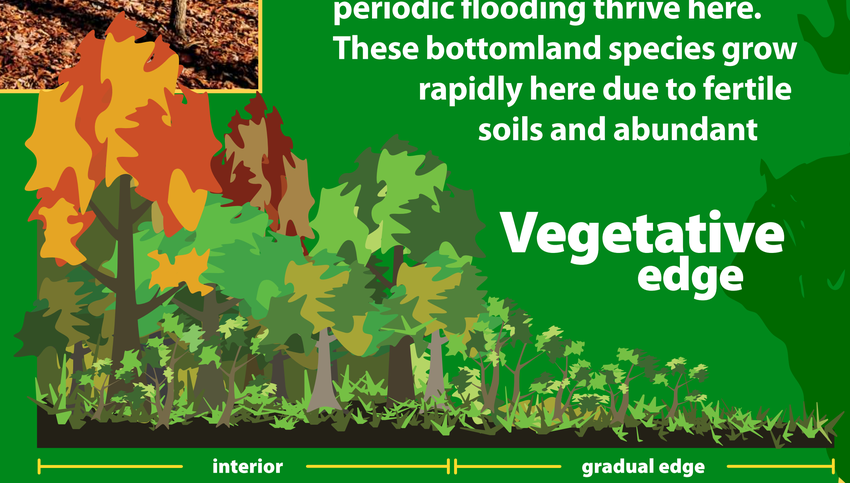
With fertility enriched by occasional flooding, and abundant moisture, bottomland soils are very productive. For example a floodplain site can produce a red oak 90 ft high over 50 years, compared to a 70 ft tree on the best upland soils.



The Riverine Forests of LCNP provide a home for a diversity of life and perform many ecological functions. These forests grow in low areas that are flooded several days each year when rainfall causes streams to overflow their banks, spilling into their floodplains after heavy rains.

A variety of hardwood trees adapted for life in wet soils and periodic flooding thrive here. These bottomland species grow rapidly here due to fertile soils and abundant moisture, even during drought.

Dominant forest species include green ash, black willow, box elder, maples, and sycamore. Dense ground cover of herbs, ferns, smartweeds, grasses, sedges, and shrubs provide shelter and food for a wide variety of fauna. This diverse community supports animal life ranging in size from almost microscopic invertebrates to large mammals like whitetail deer.



Wildlife feed on the hard mast (nuts and seeds, like the acorn shown here) that fall from hardwood trees in autumn.

For more information ...

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