

TOWN of CALAIS

Natural Resource & Emergency Management

Fluvial Erosion Hazard areas (blue)

Originator: Vt ANR

As defined by the **Watershed Management Division** of ANR, "Fluvial erosion is erosion caused by rivers and streams, and can range from gradual bank erosion to catastrophic changes in river channel location and dimension during flood events." To safeguard property from the catastrophic impact of fluvial erosion, a "river corridor" has to be defined and understood to be an area within which there is a strong possibility for a change in a river channel location. The state of Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation has prepared Fluvial Erosion Hazard (FEH) area maps for use by the town. Currently, Calais has riparian buffer setbacks around its water bodies and wetlands *Land Use & Development Regulations for the Town of Calais*, adopted by the Calais Selectboard January 3, 2005, last amended March 4, 2014, Section 3.13. Named streams are also protected by a fifty foot deep riparian buffer measured from the edge of the bank. River Corridors add these fifty foot buffers to Fluvial Erosion Hazard areas. The exact width of a river corridor is determined by the configuration of the stream meander or river course.

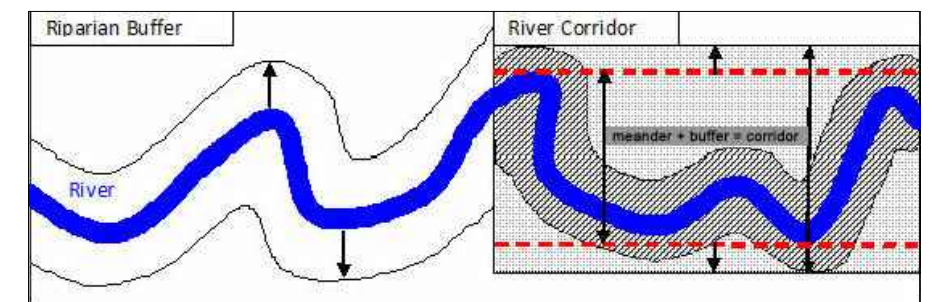


Fig. 2 Riparian Buffer and River Corridors

Figure 2 shows the difference between Riparian Buffers and River Corridors. The River Corridor width is determined, in this example, by the general width of the meander along a length of the river's course plus the protective Riparian Buffer. River Corridor widths are variable, depending on the meander pattern. The Kingsbury Branch and the Pekin Brook are both meandering streams. And both have been identified as **Fluvial Erosion Hazard (FEH)** areas in our LHMP.

