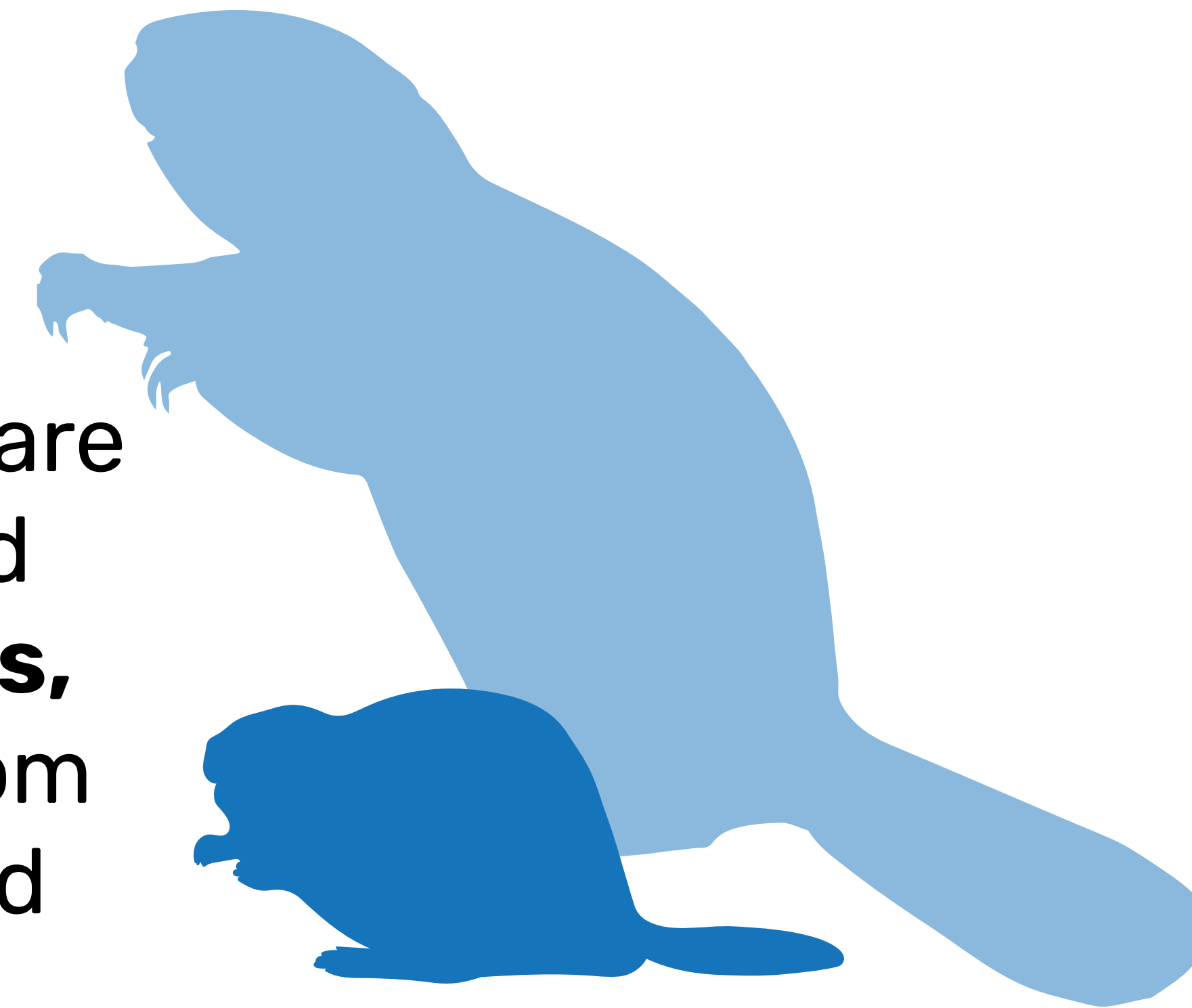
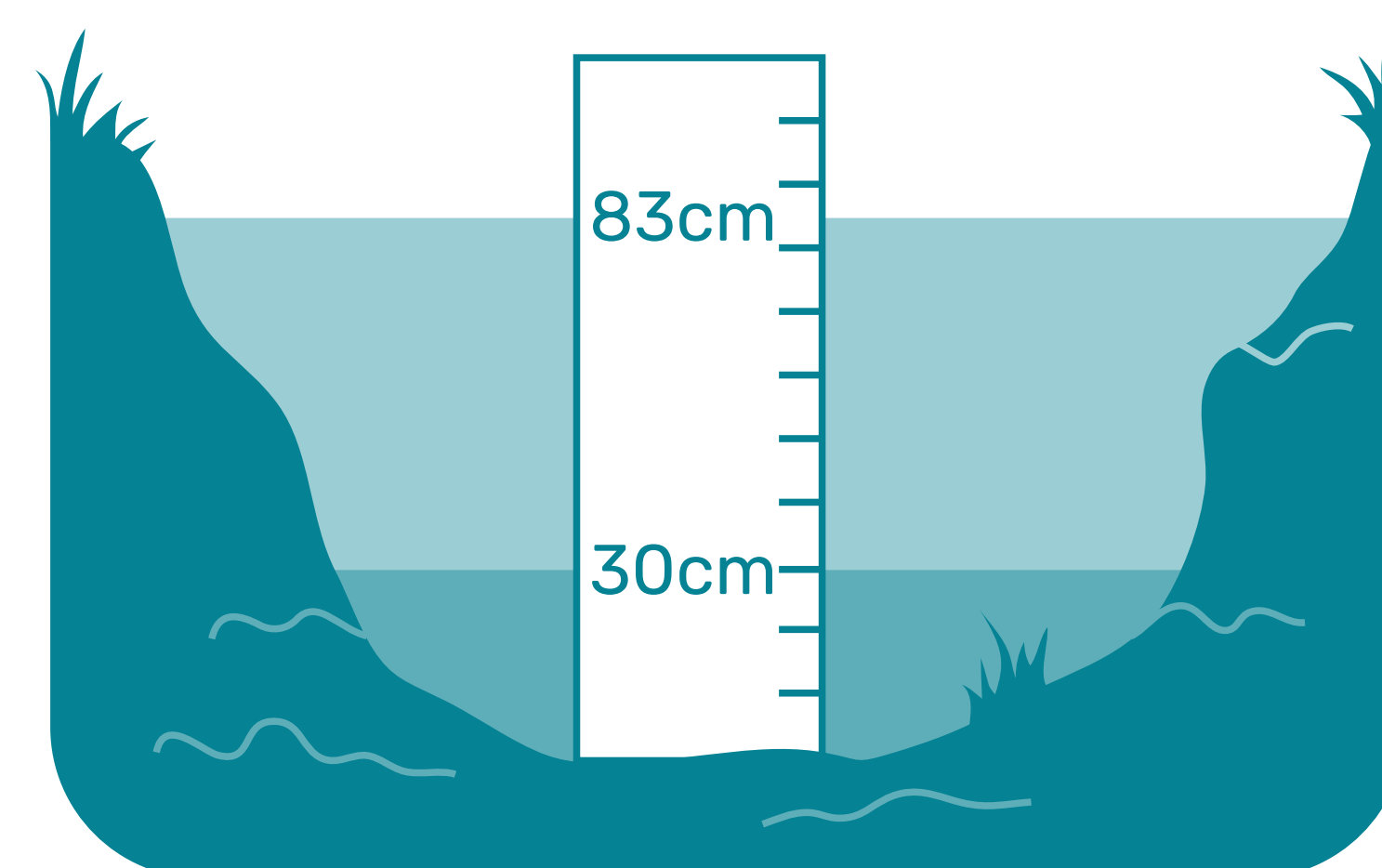
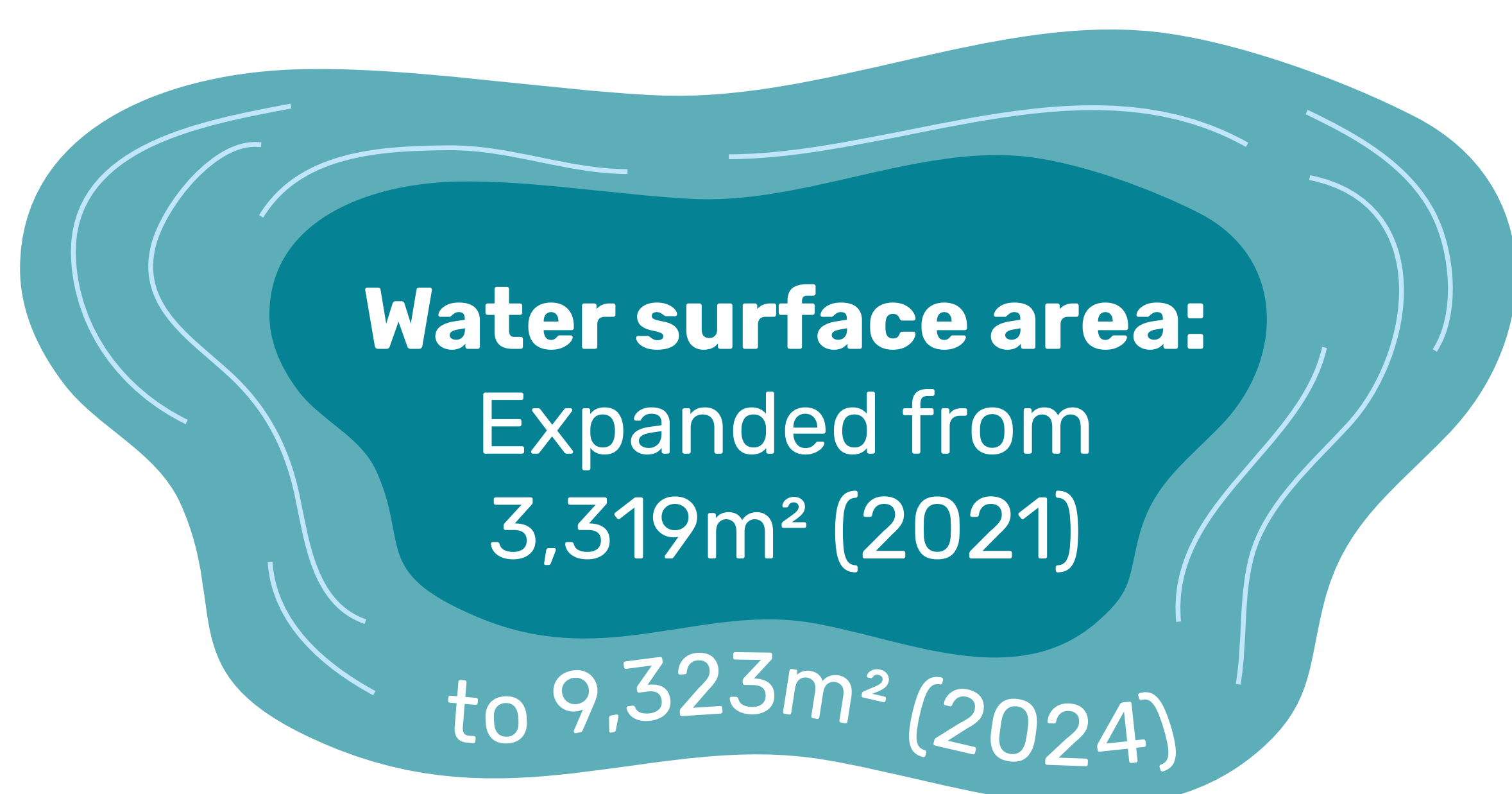


Key Findings from the Dorset Wildlife Trust Enclosed Beaver Project

On 8 February 2021, a pair of Eurasian beavers (*Castor fiber*) were relocated from Scotland to a licensed enclosed site in Dorset. Beavers are a **keystone species** and **ecosystem engineers**, creating wetlands and modifying habitats. Within **four years**, the pair have **built several dams**, **created a lodge** and **bred successfully**. These are the key findings from research by Dorset Wildlife Trust, University of Exeter, Wessex Water and other project partners between 2019 and 2025.



Hydrology: Impact on Water Flow and Storage



Drought resilience:
Water depth in lodge
pond increased



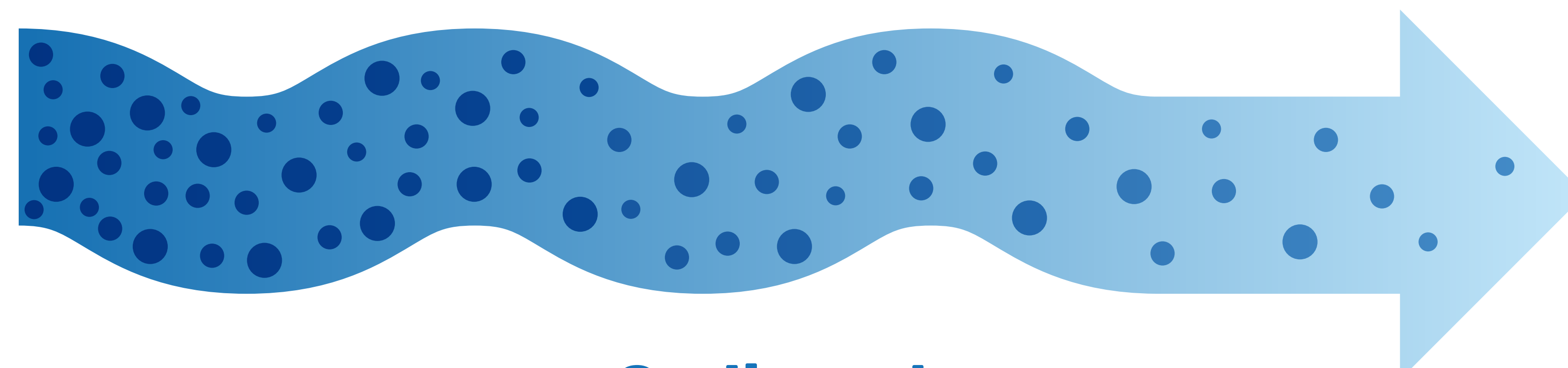
Increased delay
between peak
rainfall and peak
river flow



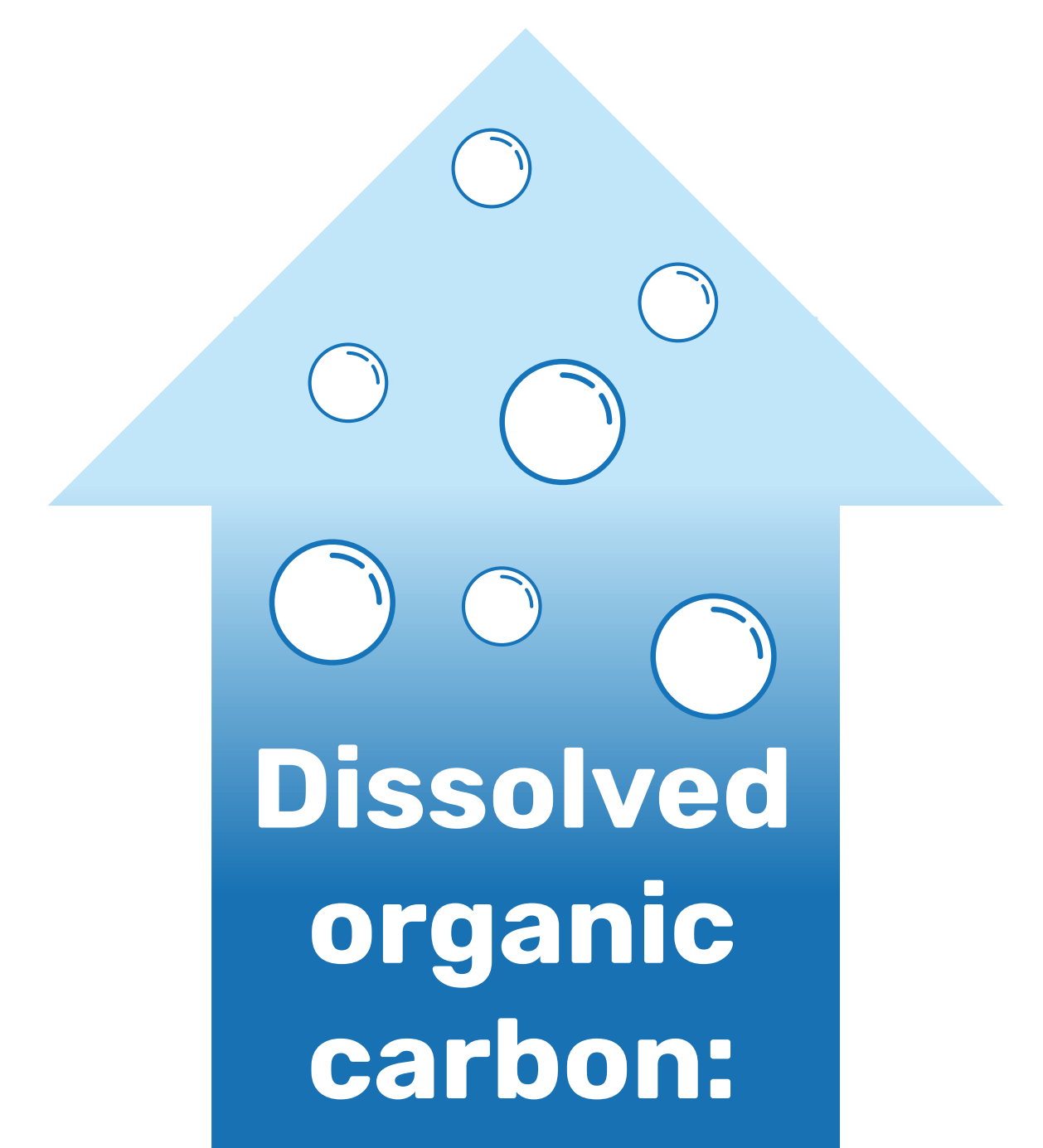
Hydrology: Impact on Water Quality



Nitrogen cycling:
Evidence of
nitrogen reduction
and denitrification
in beaver ponds



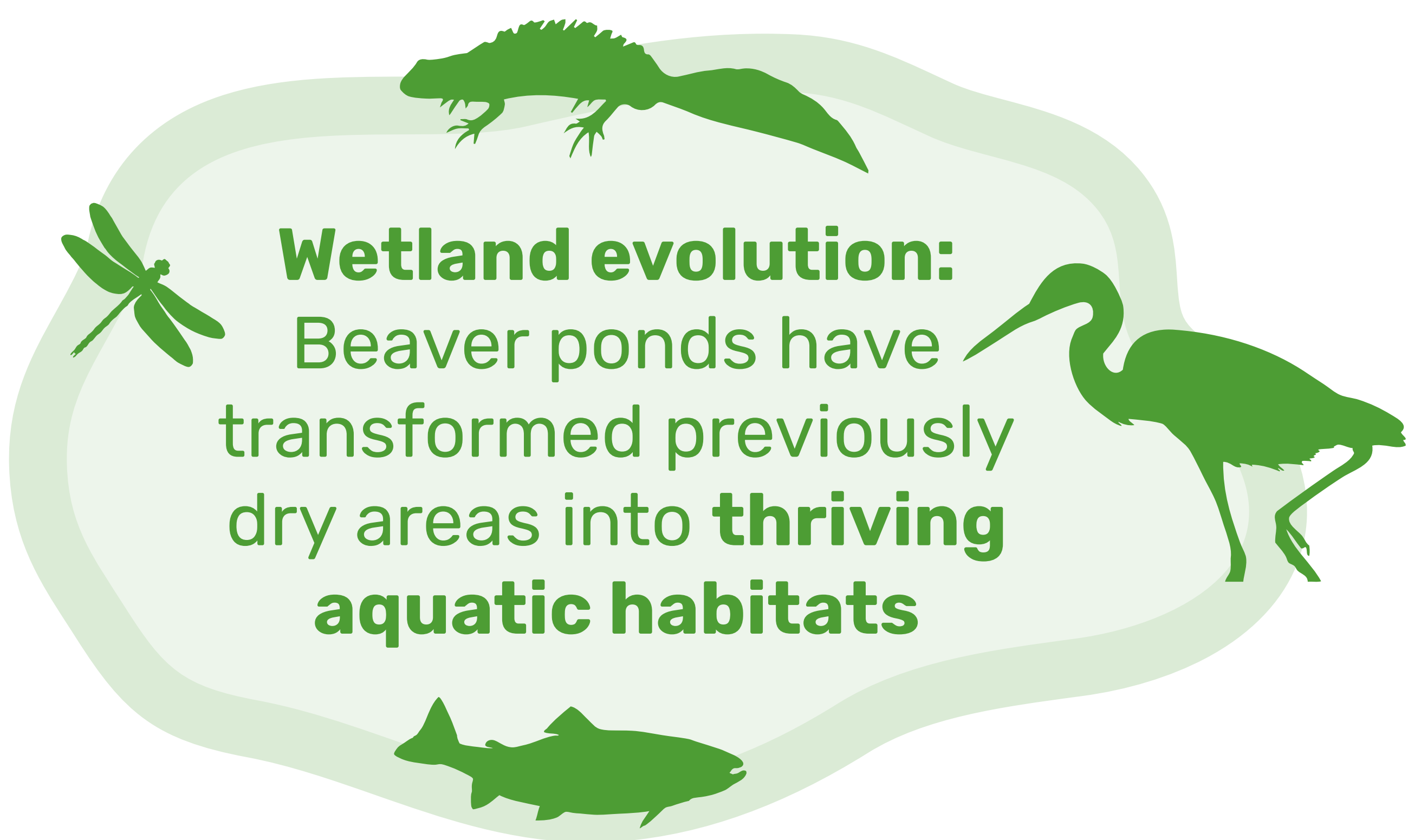
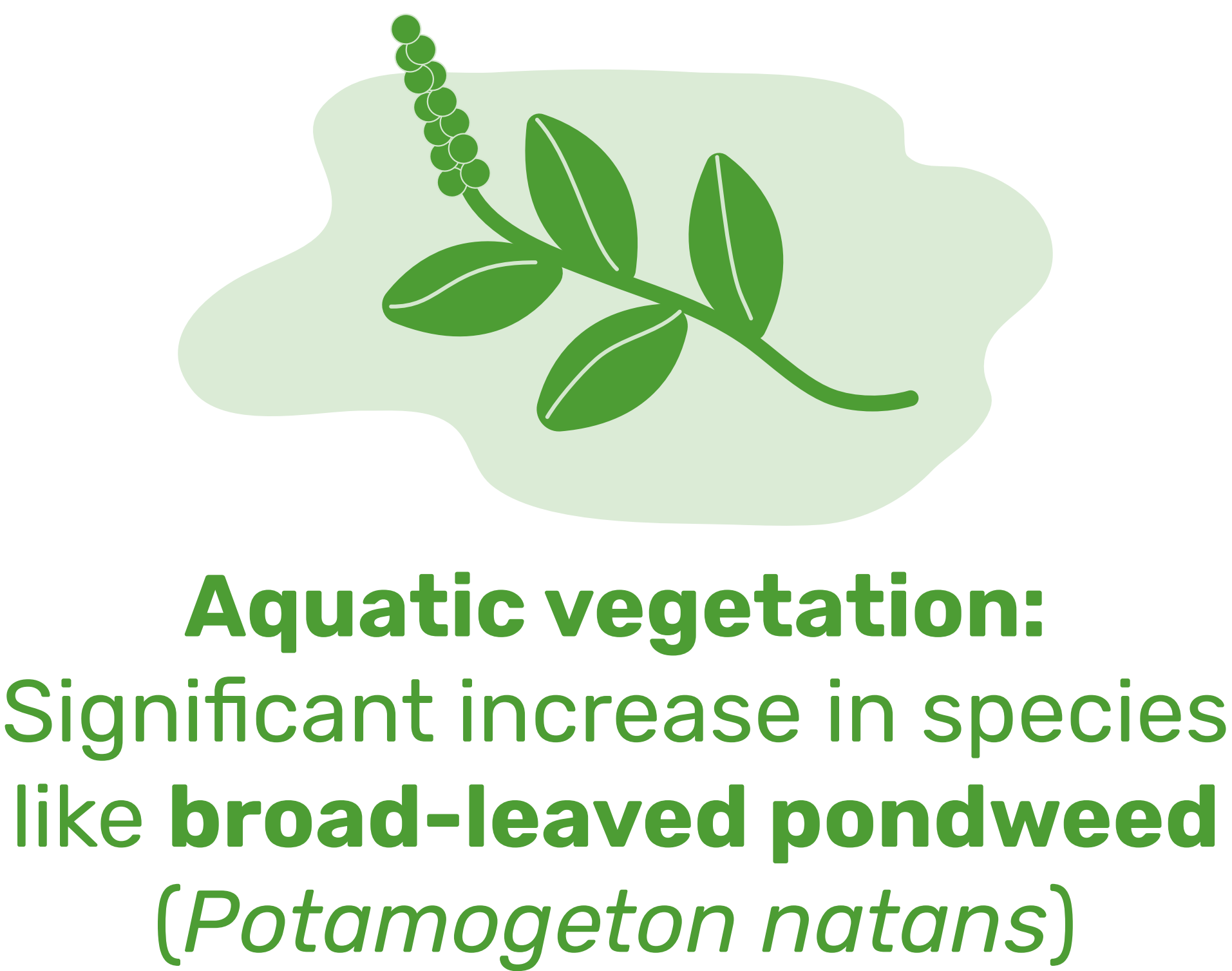
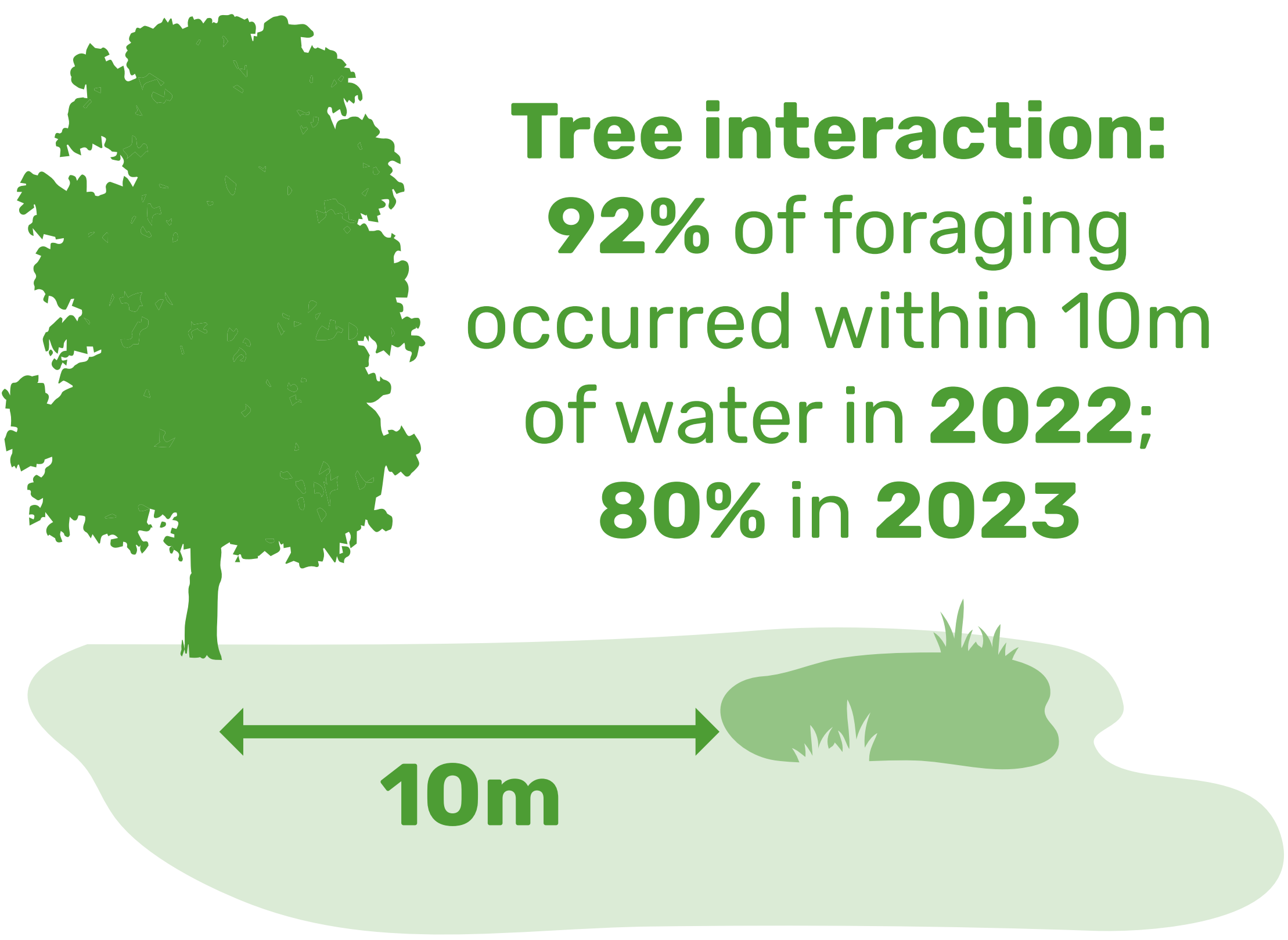
Sediment:
Total suspended solids **reduced by 0.1mg/l**
and turbidity reduced during high flow periods
indicating a **filtering effect** through the
beaver wetlands



**Dissolved
organic
carbon:**
Slight increase
(0.7 mg/litre) at
outflow

Key Findings from the Dorset Wildlife Trust Enclosed Beaver Project

Ecology: Impact on Trees and Vegetation



Ecology: Impact on Fauna

