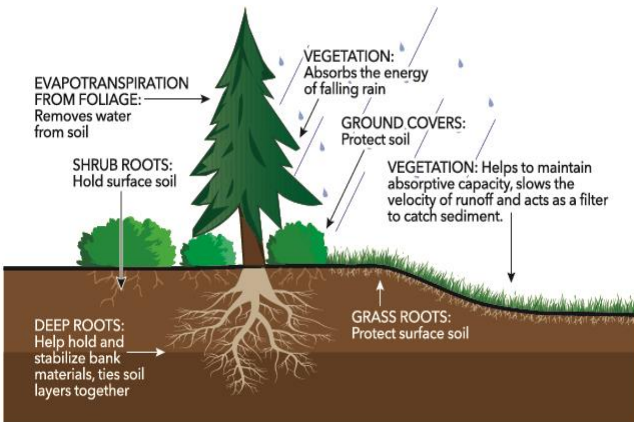


NATURALLY PROTECTING OUR LAKES

The interrelationship between a lake or stream and its shoreline is important. The shoreline, or riparian zone, is the last line of defense against forces that may otherwise pollute a healthy body of water. A naturally vegetated shoreline filters runoff generated by surrounding land uses in the watershed, removing harmful chemicals and nutrients. At the same time, plant roots bind to the soil helping to keep it in place and prevent erosion. The riparian zone also provides a critical habitat for aquatic insects, microorganisms, fish and other animals. As you can see, riparian zones are unique areas, linking the land with the water.



EFFECTS OF VEGETATION IN MINIMIZING EROSION

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Use the natural landscape as your guide. Let trees form a canopy, with shrubs, flowers and ground cover underneath, creating multiple layers - just like in nature. Plant native grasses, shrubs or trees with deep roots to stabilize the soil. Do what works for you - any native plantings are better than grass all the way down to the lake.

WHAT IS A LIVING SHORELINE?

A living shoreline is a riparian buffer zone between the water's edge and your property. This is a critical area that if left devoid of vegetation or other natural elements, may result in shoreline erosion and sediment loading into the waterbody.

Without a living shoreline, your lakefront property is subject to slowly shrinking year after year, due to wave energy slowly breaking down the unstable soil.



WHY SHOULD I HAVE A LIVING SHORELINE?

Living shorelines help to:

- ▶ Improve water quality
- ▶ Stabilize soil near the water's edge
- ▶ Provide important habitat for the fishery
- ▶ Food and habitat for wildlife
- ▶ Decrease nutrient loading events
- ▶ Better accommodate heavy precipitation events by slowing down stormwater runoff
- ▶ Filter non-point pollution



Image from:

<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/Water/Publications/RiparianBufferManual.pdf>



SHORELINE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

A HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE FOR LAKEFRONT DWELLINGS AT THE HIDEOUT

WHAT ABOUT LAWCARE OF LAKEFRONT DWELLINGS NEAR THE SHORELINE?

Unfortunately, as landscapes are developed, natural shorelines are often damaged. In urban and rural environments, for instance, unrestricted cutting, mowing, or removing of vegetation can lead to soil erosion, water pollution, degraded aquatic habitat, impaired aesthetics, and a reduction in property values.

When mowing, simply leave a strip of taller grass between the shoreline and your yard, which creates a natural “buffer zone”.

Here in The Hideout, property owners, and their contracted landscaping services, are prohibited from raking or blowing leaves, grass clippings, or any vegetated debris into our lakes, streams, or culverts.

The use of all fertilizers and laundry detergents containing phosphorous are also prohibited in The Hideout.



WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

While native re-vegetation is always the preferred choice, it is sometimes not applicable given every situation. There are alternative options such as installing a shoreline stabilization structure such as a laid up style stone wall (stones are stacked vertically) or a dumped rock protection (rip rap style). As such, it is recommended that guidance be obtained from a contractor, engineer, or the Wayne County Conservation District.

WHAT KIND OF PERMITTING IS REQUIRED?

Before any kind of shoreline stabilization or rehabilitation work is performed in the community, the homeowner must contact the Wayne County Conservation District by calling (570) 253-0930 to inquire about what permits may be required.

Depending on the exact scope of your project, a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) General Permit-3 (GP-3) may be required. The Wayne County Conservation District is delegated on behalf of PA DEP to issue General Permits.

Once that determination is made, please contact the Permitting Officer at our office for further guidance and permits. You can reach the Permitting Officer by phone at (570) 698-4100 ext. 120 or via email at environmental@thehideout.us.



NATIVE PLANTS FOR LANDSCAPING AND VEGETATED BUFFERS

The use of native plant species for landscaping or vegetated buffers along the water's edge, offer many advantages to using non-native species.

- **Adapted for Local Climate and Conditions:** Native plants are adapted to local soils, climate, and conditions and will persist through frost and drought.
- **Bird Food:** Native plants provide seeds, insects and caterpillars.
- **Pollinators:** A planting of native plants will attract native pollinators such as native bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, and hummingbirds.
- **Low Maintenance:** Native plant species require less maintenance such as water and soil amendments. Once the plants are established they will require little else.
- **Maintaining Native Biodiversity:** Native plants experience multiple threats such as habitat conversion, invasion of exotic species, deer herbivory, pollution and over collecting. By using native plant species you can help to maintain the native biodiversity of Pennsylvania.

Visit www.dcnr.pa.gov, click on the Conservation tab to learn more about native plants.