

Lake Alexander Property Owners Association

Restoring Natural Shorelines Project Proposal



Prepared for: Lake Alexander Property Owners Association

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Lake Alexander Property Owners Association

Our Mission Statement:

To act as stewards of Lake Alexander in regards to water quality, fish management, and shoreline conservation.

Restoring Natural Shorelines

The issue:

Loss of natural shoreline buffers due to development contributes to water quality issues and in turn affects the health of the fishery.

The solution:

Create a program that provides incentives to restore shorelines to their natural state.

Restoring Natural Shorelines

Principles:

- Shorelands are naturally full of a rich diversity of life:
 - Microorganisms
 - Plants
 - Animals (including humans)
- The importance of keeping shorelands healthy is becoming increasingly clear as we learn more about their structure and function
- Shoreland restoration efforts can lead to re-establishment of a quality outdoor resource, and a community full of life and beauty.



Image source: Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District

Restoring Natural Shorelines

The Problem:

- Traditional lawns have few of the benefits of a more natural shoreline because they:
 - Are shallow rooted
 - Provide little wildlife habitat
 - Need frequent maintenance
 - Are often over-fertilized
- These factors can lead to lake problems, such as:
 - Shoreline erosion/lake sedimentation
 - Algal blooms/excessive aquatic plant growth
 - Loss of wildlife habitat while increasing nuisance animals
 - Loss of leisure time



Shoreline erosion is evident on this lakeshore lot.
Image source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Restoring Natural Shorelines

The Buffer Zone Solution:

Creation of a buffer zone is the essence of the lakescaping concept. It is an opportunity to balance our needs and priorities with those with whom we share life at the edge of the water.

Restoring Natural Shorelines Project

The Buffer Zone Solution:

- Lakescaping and shoreland restoration can return many desirable features to your shoreline:
 - Provide habitat to a wide variety of wildlife
 - Filter out pollutants and runoff that degrade water quality
 - Prevent shoreline erosion by absorbing wave action
 - Enjoy abundant nature: flowers, shrubs, trees, aquatic plants, fish, insects, birds
 - More leisure time to relax and enjoy the nature of life at the lakeshore



Image source: Steve Adams/Coon Creek Watershed District/Wenck Associates, Inc.

Restoring Natural Shorelines

Restoring the Balance of Nature:

- Enhances the aesthetic quality and recreational opportunities we appreciate
- Balances your lifestyle with the needs of the natural communities of plants and animals that also call the shoreland home
- A buffer zone combined with a smaller sand beach area is the best of both worlds; protecting the lake while providing recreation.



Image source: Lake Detroiters Association









LAKE ALEXANDER SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT PROPOSAL



Restoring Natural Shorelines Project Proposal: Executive Summary

Objective

- Develop a plan to promote and incentivize Lake Alexander property owners to restore developed shorelines to their natural state and encourage landowners with natural shorelines to maintain them.

Goals

- Improve and maintain a sustainable fishery
- Protect property values
- Increase awareness of sustainable lakeshore practices
- Communicate goals with current and new residents

Restoring Natural Shorelines Project Proposal: Executive Summary

Solution

- Provide financial incentives, education materials, and communication.

Project Outline

- June 4: Determine projects to be supported
- June 4: Agree on a funding mechanism
- June 30: Develop the program structure
- July 8: Present a proposal to the LAPOA
- Develop program basics and communicate in the Fall 2017 newsletter
- Begin accepting projects in 2018

Restoring Natural Shorelines Project Proposal

Budget

- Gross annual funding not to exceed 15% of annual cash reserves
- Individual project awards not to exceed \$500

Restoring Natural Shorelines Project Proposal: Program

Using the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group Compass Program as a model, develop the following structure:

- Application document to be completed by the landowner detailing current state of the shoreline, the desired results, and the proposed project to achieve the goals.
- A shoreline stewardship plan, including a survey of the current situation and landowner goals.

Restoring Natural Shorelines Project Proposal: Program

Using the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group Compass Program as a model, develop the following structure:

- A reward program consisting of the following:
 - Signage displayed on the property
 - Personal written recognition
 - Recognition at the annual meeting
 - Potential for financial reimbursement
 - Special recognition for outstanding achievement

Restoring Natural Shorelines Project Proposal: Program

Using the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group Compass Program as a model, develop the following structure:

- The Morrison County Soil and Water Conservation District has enthusiastically proposed to provide the following resources:
 - On-site evaluation of project proposals and property survey
 - Consultations with landowners to develop workable projects and provide technical assistance
 - Final inspection of projects to approve any incentives

Restoring Natural Shorelines Project Proposal: Program

Establish a buffer zone with a minimum width of 10 feet from the water line and a minimum length of 75% of the shoreline. On lots less than 100 feet wide, 20 feet of cleared shoreline will be allowed.

- Projects will be restricted to the following:
 - Removal of structures within the shoreline impact zone (50 feet inland from ordinary high water mark), foundations, retaining walls, rip-rap, etc.
 - Removal of sod
 - Preparation of buffer bed
 - Purchase and planting of native plants, both aquatic and land-based
 - Installation of a rain garden

Restoring Natural Shorelines Project Proposal: Program

I envision the program to work initially as follows:

1. Landowner completes project application
2. LAPOA board reviews application, approves or denies proceeding to next step
3. SWCD and LAPOA representative visit landowner to review proposed project and approve or request changes
4. Landowner completes the project
5. SWCD and LAPOA representatives visit the site and verify satisfactory project completion and display project signage; photos taken
6. Landowner provides receipts for approved expenses
7. LAPOA approves reimbursement to landowner not to exceed matching 50% of the cost to a maximum of \$500 per application
8. Landowner is reimbursed