

Shoreline Habitat

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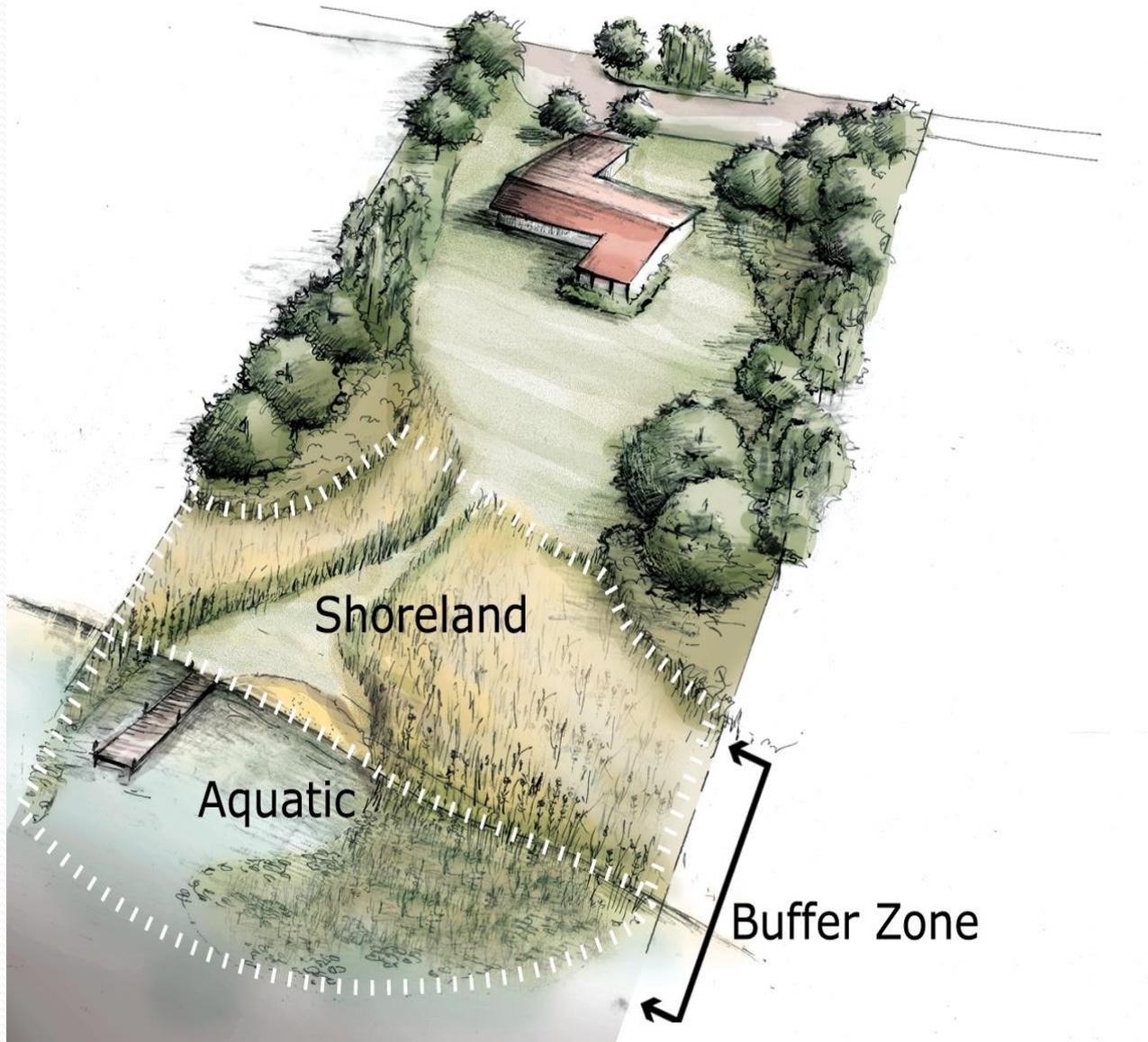
Program Overview

Shoreland Habitat

- ❖ What/Where is the shoreline?
- ❖ Ecological structure, function, and composition
- ❖ What is happening on our shorelines?
- ❖ How does my shoreline look?



What is the “shoreland”?



Why are shorelines important?

Critical Wildlife
Habitat

Aesthetic appeal

Protect Water
Quality

High Biodiversity

Protection for Fish



90% of all lake life is born, raised, sheltered, and fed or grows in the area where land and water meet:

The Shoreline



Ecological Structure, Function, & Composition



Ecological Structures of Shorelines

- Slope/Aspect
- Vegetation
- Large woody debris

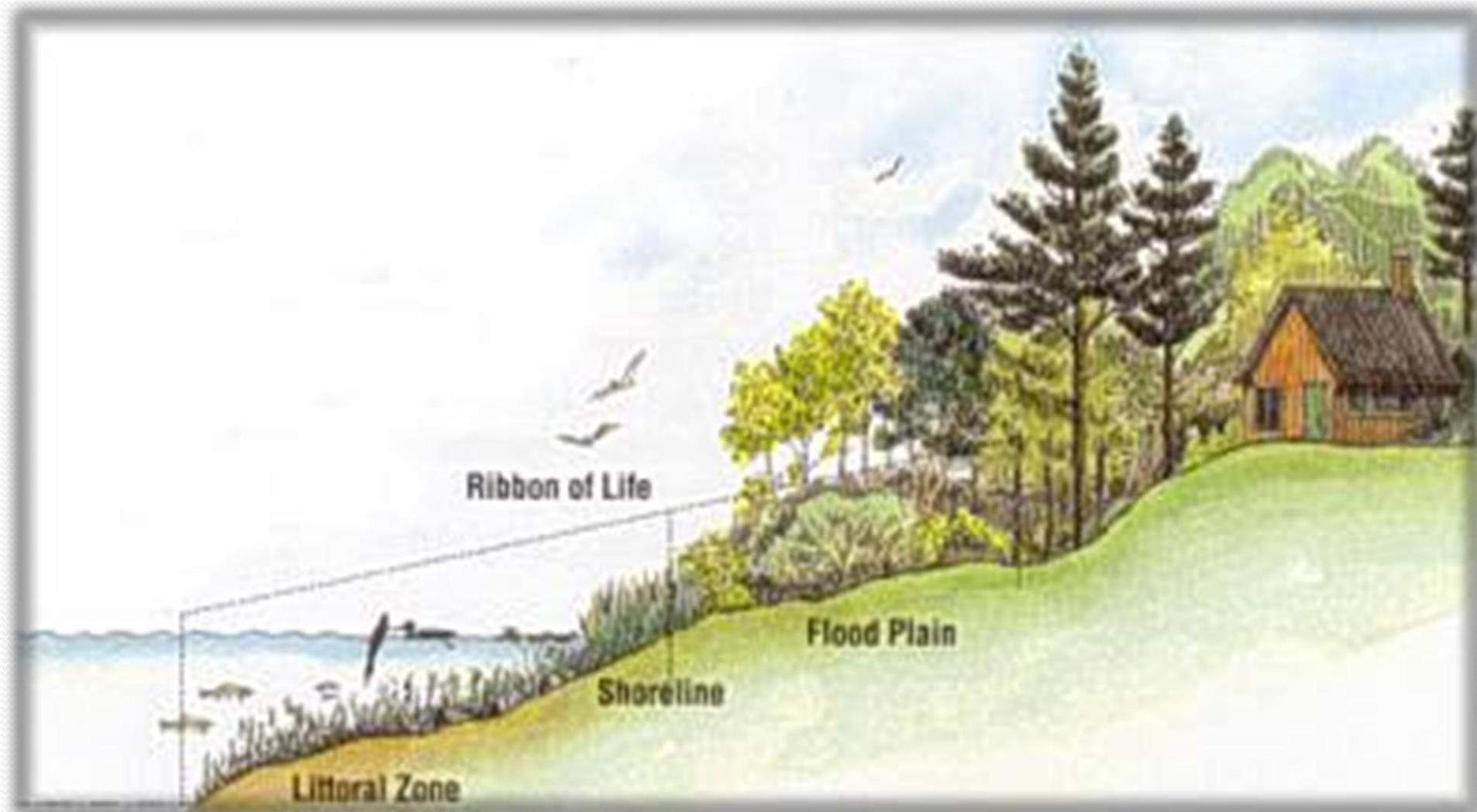
Ecological Composition of Shorelines

- Plant community
- Soil type
- Critter community

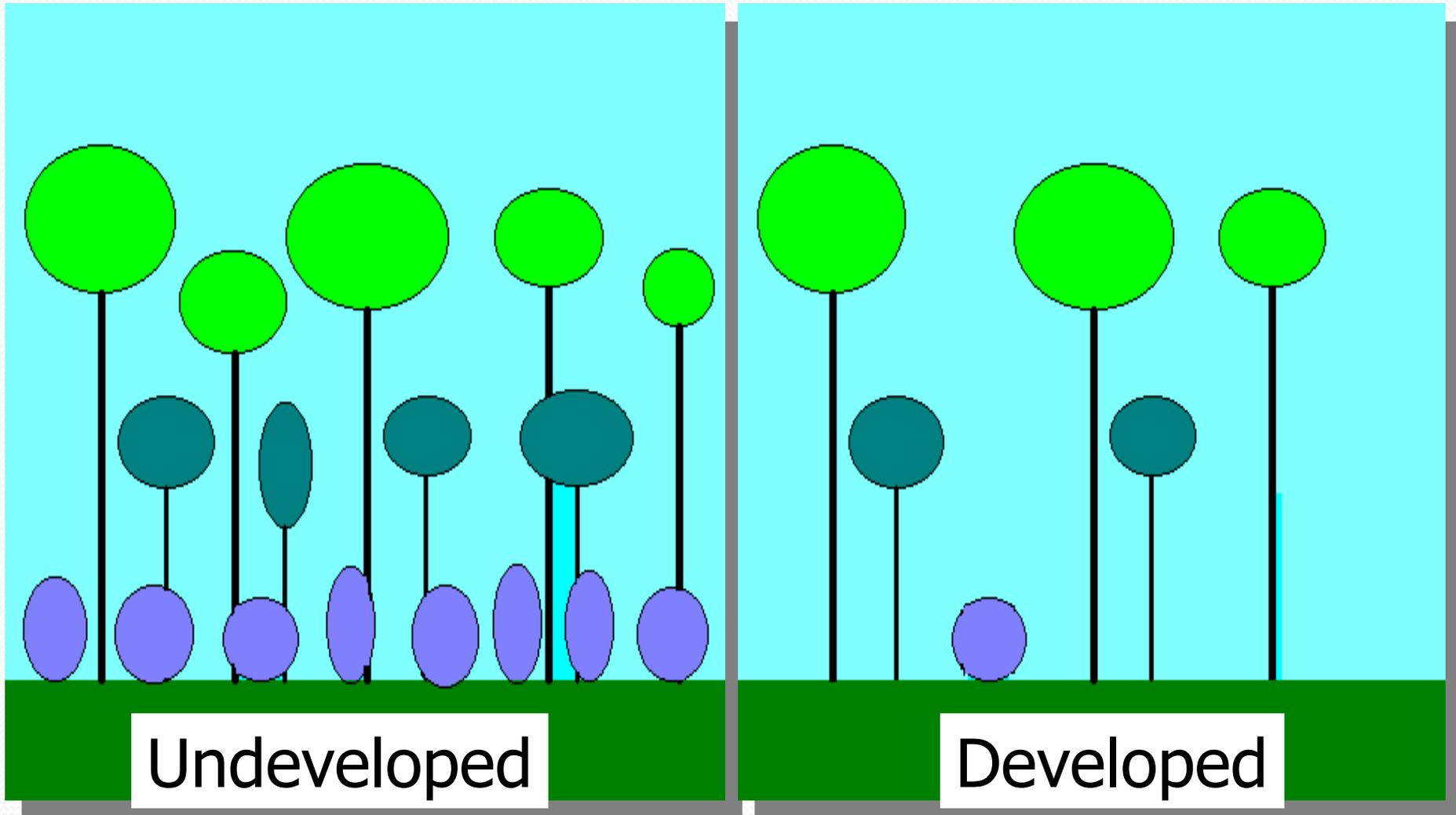
Ecological Functions of Shorelines

- Hydrologic cycle
- Wave energy
- Light energy
- Erosion

Shoreline Habitat Structure, Composition, & Function



What's Happening to Shorelines?



At the homeowner scale everyone takes loving care of their own property....



At the landscape scale we are loving our lakes to death!



Cumulative Impacts:

Increased Erosion

Increased Nutrient Input

Decreased Biological Diversity

Decreased Lake Water Quality

What is the
ecological
condition
my
shoreline?



**How does
my
shoreline
look?**

**Is my
shoreline
structure
simple or
complex?**



**How does
my
shoreline
look?**

**Is my
shoreline
structure
simple or
complex?**



**How does
my part of
the lake
shoreline
look?**

**How does it
sit in the
landscape?
How is it
affected by
the lake
shape?**

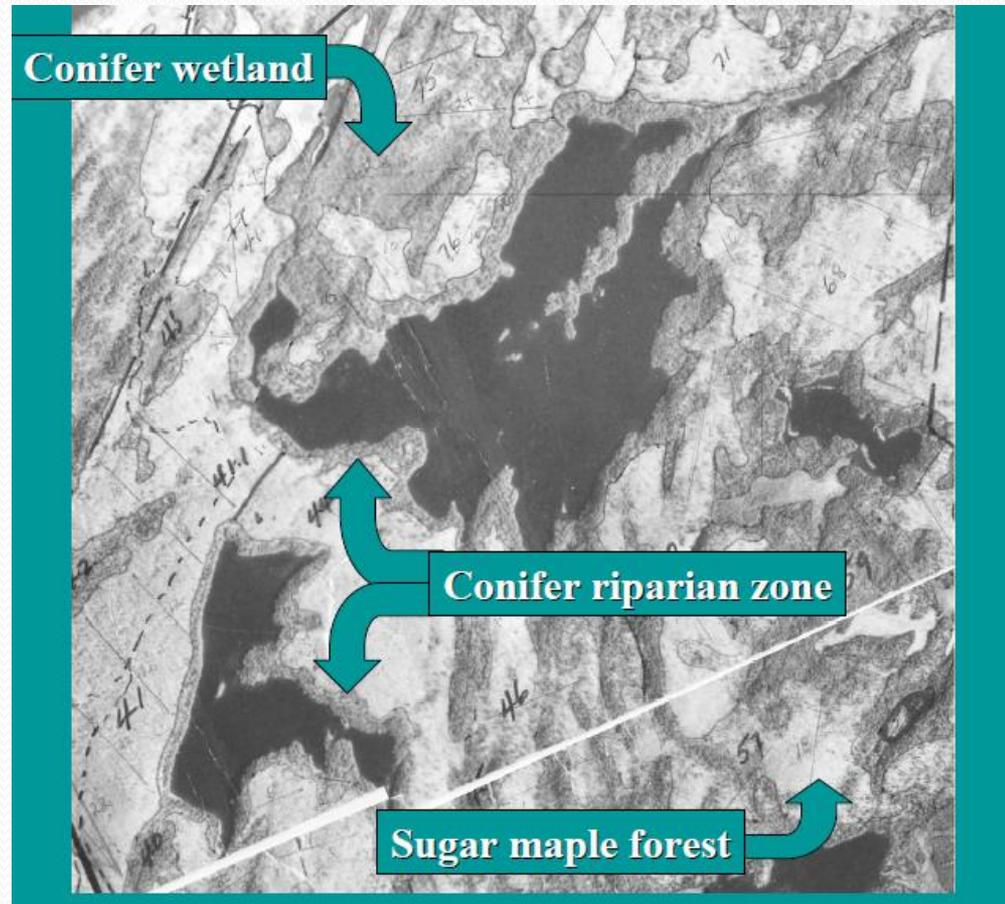


What are the plants that grow on my shoreline?

What is the natural plant community?

Am I working with my land?

- Wetland?
- Forest?
- Grassland?



What are the animals that call my shoreline home?

What critters live with me?

What critters could live here?



- Birds?
- Mammals?
- Amphibians?
- Insects?

What are the functional processes moving through my shoreline?

Water:



Light:



What are the functional processes moving through my shoreline?

Wave energy:



Nutrients:



Ecosystems are not only more
complex than we think,
**They are more complex than
we can think.**

**Your shoreline is part of a
larger community – lake,
watershed, eco-region.**



Start with your shoreline



Planting in 2001



2002



2006





Then
look
around.

- What does the structure, function and composition of the whole lake shoreline look like?

- **What is happening the structure, function, and composition of watershed that will affect your lake?**



**To halt the decline of an ecosystem,
you have to think like an ecosystem.**



A scenic view of a lake with a forested shoreline. The water is dark blue-green, and the sky is clear. Numerous logs are floating in the water, some partially submerged and some protruding above the surface. The shoreline is covered in dense green trees, including deciduous and coniferous species. The overall scene suggests a natural, possibly undisturbed, environment.

Questions???

Thank you.