

Shoreland Restoration

A 35-foot vegetation buffer can:

Improve Water Quality

Native vegetation along the shoreline filters out pollutants and nutrients before they run into lakes and streams.

Reduce Soil Erosion

The roots of turf grass are very shallow. Native plants are better at stabilizing eroding shorelines.

Improve Wildlife Habitat

Native shoreline habitats provide food, shelter and homes for songbirds, fish, beneficial insects, and other wildlife.

Reduce Noise Pollution

Noise from motorboats and lake activity can be reduced with shoreline vegetation.

Increase Leisure Time

Spend less time mowing and maintaining your property, use fewer fertilizers and pesticides, and spend more time sitting back to enjoy your natural surroundings.



Vilas County Land and Water
Conservation Department
330 Court Street-Courthouse
Eagle River, WI 54521

Telephone: (715)-479-3747
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Conservation Program for Vilas County Landowners



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Vilas County Conservation Program

The Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department offers a cost-share program for county landowners. The primary emphasis of the program is to reduce soil erosion and restore native buffer vegetation to improve surface water quality. Program funding is available for many conservation practices.

For shoreline restoration projects and other conservation practices involving re-vegetation and erosion control activities, landowners are reimbursed between 50 - 70% of the costs of purchasing project materials and labor.



How does the program work?

Interested landowners can contact the Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department at (715)-479-3747 to request an application form for the program. It costs \$25 to apply. Once an application form has been received by us, a staff member will contact you to arrange an on-site visit.

If a project is selected for funding, department staff will work with the landowner to develop a project plan unique to that site. When the plan is approved, a cost-share agreement is signed and the landowner completes the project. *Proof of payment for all project costs is provided to the county. Vilas County reimburses the landowner after the conservation practice is complete.

* Services fees apply

Conservation practices eligible for reimbursement funding:

- Streambank and Shoreline Protection
- Well Abandonment
- Critical Area Stabilization
- Riparian Buffers
- Filter Strips
- Grade Stabilization Structures
- Wetland Restoration or Development
- Water Diversions
- Manure Storage Systems
- Manure Storage Abandonment
- Livestock Fencing
- Livestock Watering Facilities
- Field Windbreaks
- Water and Sediment Control Basins
- Waterway Systems
- Nutrient Management
- Wetland Restoration
- More practices available

A landowner who takes the time to become familiar with the life that inhabits the shoreline and restores the appropriate habitat:

- makes significant headway towards protecting and restoring the natural beauty and function of the shoreline;
- gains a greater appreciation for the potential ecological richness of the shore and near shore areas; and
- plays an important role in protecting the complex network of life that sustains healthy aquatic ecosystems.