

Planting Shoreline Buffer Zones – by Shelley Larson

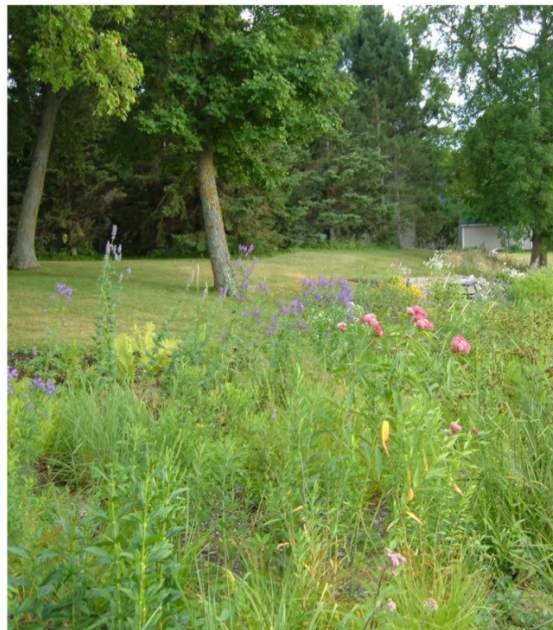
Last fall, Pine Lake shoreline owners undertook a project to protect water quality, prevent shoreline erosion, and enhance habitat for wildlife. Three families and volunteers spent several days removing non-native and unsightly invasive Reed Canary Grass, and planting 3500 native grass, sedge, flower, shrub, fern, wet meadow and emergent plants in a 15' deep buffer planting along their 300' stretch of shoreline. Shelley Larson of Hayland Woods Native Nursery assisted by designing a planting plan, coordinating the project with Aitkin SWCD, providing plant materials, and overseeing the planting workshop.



If you have erosion on your shoreline, you are losing valuable real estate. Switching from bare lawn at the water's edge to a buffer of deep-rooted native vegetation protects your shore from erosion caused by waves and boat wakes. It offers privacy for you and habitat for fish and other aquatic wildlife, birds, butterflies, and pollinators. Buffers capture sediment and nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen - essential for maintaining water quality and healthy lakes. And they are beautiful!



Erosion and invasive Reed Canary Grass



Mature shoreline planting

While it takes a native planting several years to mature as roots grow deep into the soil, flowers will begin to bloom the first season after planting, and butterflies usually appear soon after. And once a planting is established, maintenance is minimal and that leaves you more time to enjoy family and friends at the lake. For more information on shoreline stabilization and restoration contact your lake association, Aitkin SWCD, or Shelley Larson at Hayland Woods. Congratulations to these families for their commitment to clean water!