Welcome to storyline 2. Another series of posts about the Natural Shores demonstration project

Storyline 1 took you from here

to here.

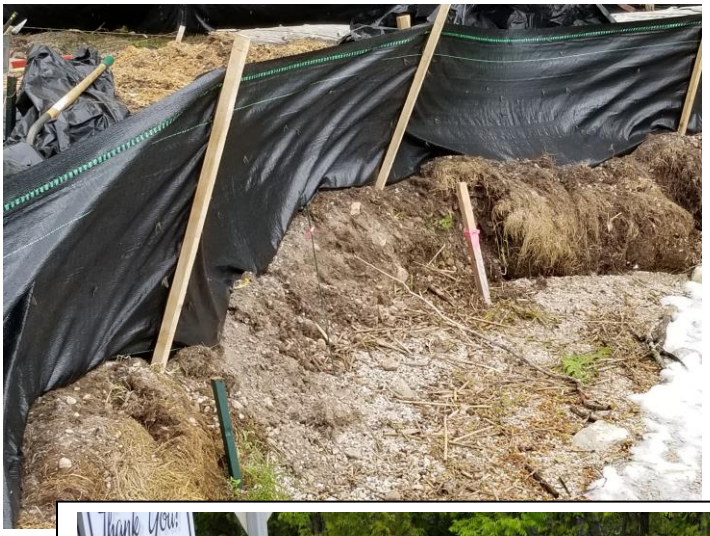
That series of 13 posts reviewed the program and explained the process of developing, implementing and funding this demonstration project. It ended as we put the tarp down last fall to smother the grass.

This series, storyline2, takes you from here

to here in just one month.

Natural Shores Demonstration Project Storyline 2

We removed the tarp smothering the grass at the end of May.



A silt fence was installed per county permit requirement

Clark Lake Advancement Association Natural Shores demonstration project storyline 2

On June 3rd we began setting the edging for the path to the bench;

after a delay to grind out a stump

the edging and digging out of the path was completed by June 7th.

Clark Lake Advancement Association Natural Shores demonstration project storyline 2

All of our materials for the coir logs had arrived on June 5th and we began installation on June 9th .

A second lift along the shore was installed June 10th

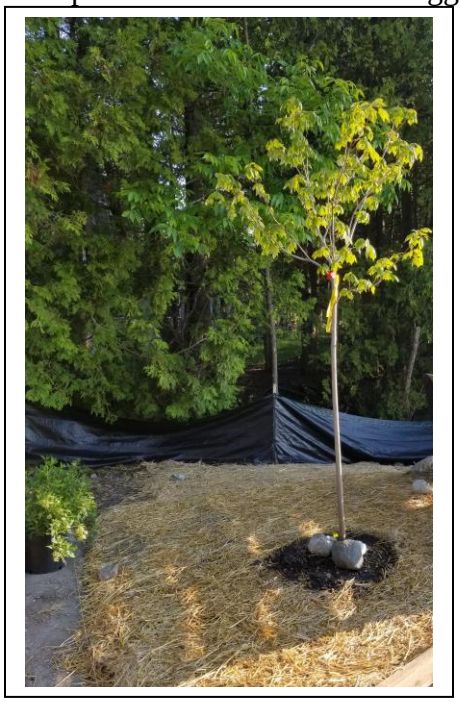
we decided to add one more log to the upper level which was installed on June 11th.

Clark Lake Advancement Association Natural Shores demonstration project storyline 2

Most of the next few days was spent on site preparation, especially digging out several inches of asphalt discovered under our planting area and sifting rocks out of our soil.

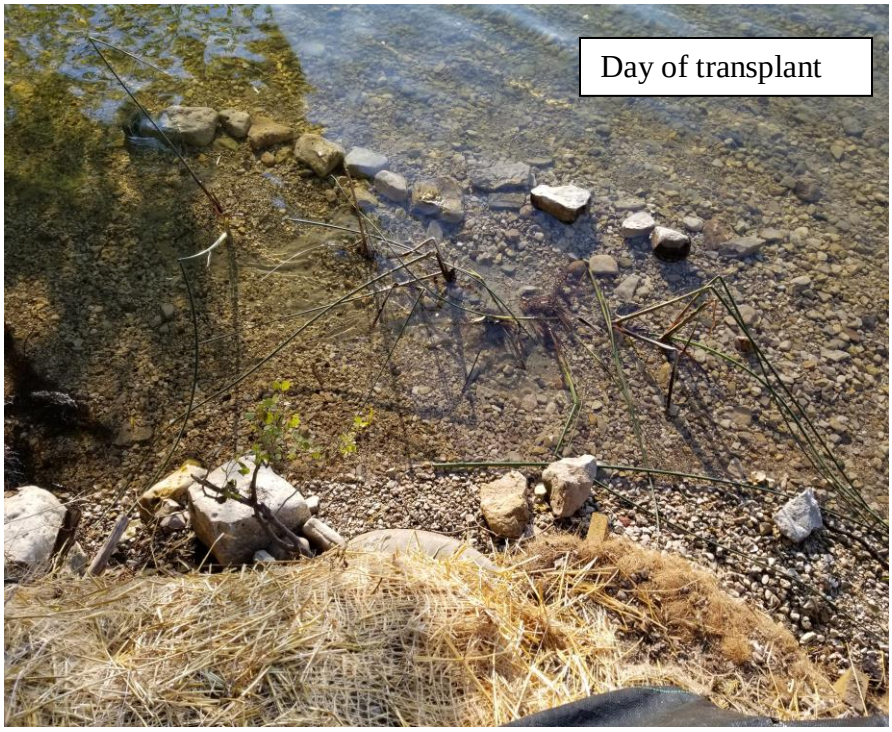
We then laid out the anti-erosion blanket in compliance with our county permit.

Our first planting, the red maple was accomplished on June 16th after digging out another section of asphalt!

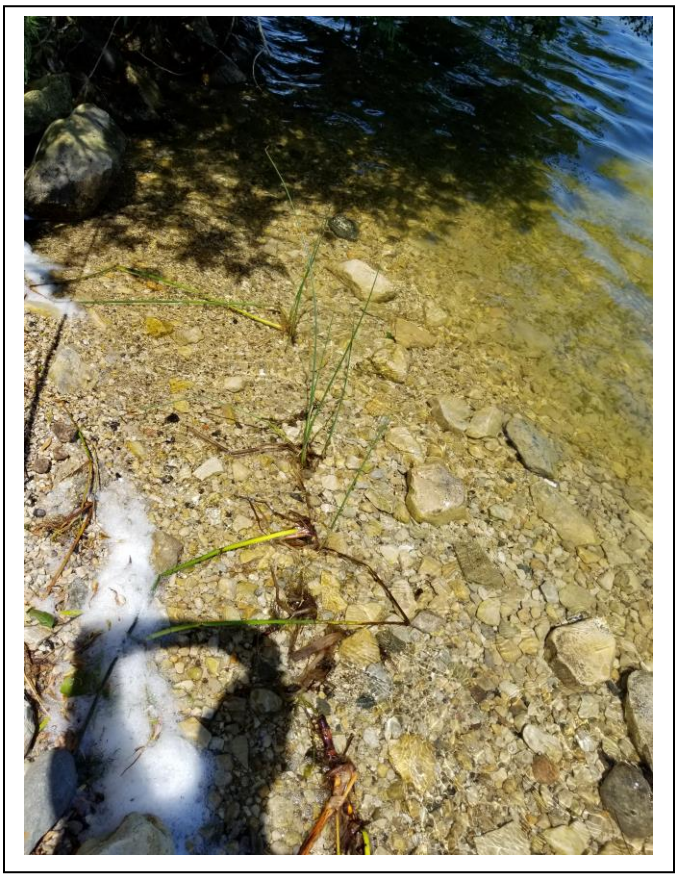


Clark Lake Advancement Association Natural Shores demonstration project storyline 2

June 17th, after obtaining DNR approval, we transplanted several bulrush plants to the norther end of the site . This was our first attempt at doing the transplant and more are planned if these are successful.

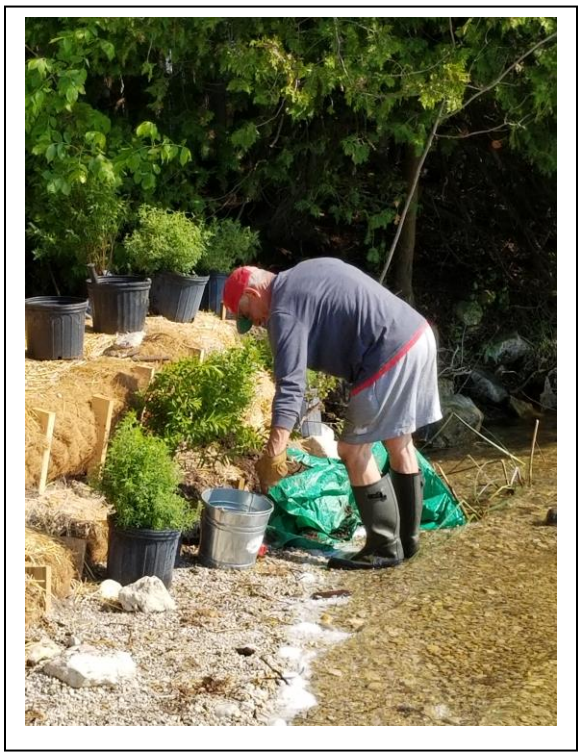


2 weeks after transplant.at least 6 have taken root



Clark Lake Advancement Association Natural Shores demonstration project storyline 2

June 18th we installed the rest of the woody material.



We put in 10 different species for a total of 28 shrubs and bushes.

On the day of plant pick up, the nursery had sold out one of our species that was to be along the shore below the coir log.

We ended up using extra of the existing species but this meant a little less variety and only the bulrush are securing the shore below the log. We may need to add plants to that area in the future.

Clark Lake Advancement Association Natural Shores demonstration project storyline 2

Our wildflowers and grasses were due to arrive the evening of June 19th with planting scheduled for 20 and 21 June. The nursery called on June 16th to inform us that eleven species would not be available.

Meanwhile, these 12 spikenards came from a different nursery and were planted June 19th

Several phone calls and some research resulted in us ordering substitutes for 6 of the species listed on the original plan. We were still 5 species short when the plants arrived that evening.

On June 20th

and June 21st

we installed 30 species with a total or 262 plants.

Clark Lake Advancement Association Natural Shores demonstration project storyline 2

The path to the bench was completed on July 6th

and the final three substitute species of 54 plants arrived and were installed on July 7th. Due to space limitations two species (16 plants) were deleted from the scheme.

Clark Lake Advancement Association Natural Shores demonstration project storyline 2

How to identify and learn about each species.

Each plant has a plastic label with a letter and number.

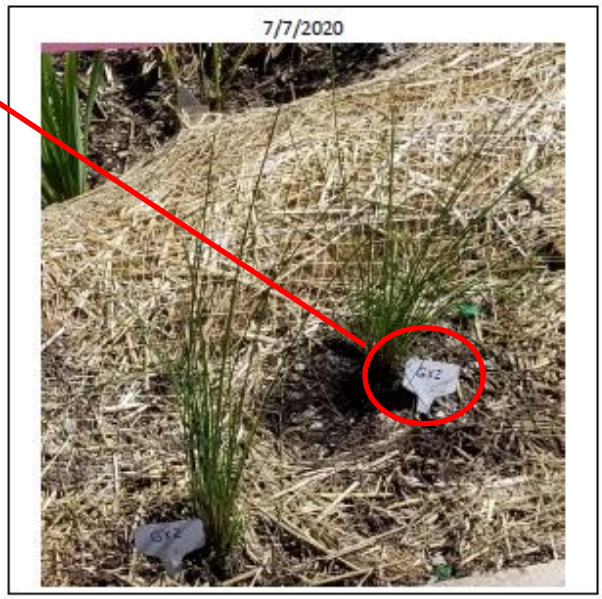
A plant key is on site so visitors can identify each plant.

Plan label	***Common name***	***Scientific name***
G1	*Sideoats grama*	*Bouteloua curtipendula*
G2	Fox sedge	*Carex vulpinoidea*
G3	Northern sweet grass	*Hierochloe odorata*
G4	Torrey's rush	*Juncus torreyi*
GX1	~~New choice~~	~~*new choice*~~
GX2	Common rush	*Juncus effusus*
GX3	~~Little bluestem grass~~	~~*Schizachyrium scoparium*~~
P1	Common milkweed	*Asclepias syriaca*
P2	Bee balm (wild bergamot)	*Monarda fistulosa*
P3	Deleted	

We also have another document on the website showing each plant as both mature and as it was installed along with some nursery notes.

Plan number	Common name	Scientific name	Category	Flower color	Bloom time	Height range feet	Soil type	Sun exposure
GX2	Common rush	*Juncus effusus*	Grasses/rush/sedge	Brown leaves	May-July	1-2	Moist-wet	Full

Common Rush is the most widespread rush worldwide and the species that is cultivated most often. A fine accent near ponds, it is considered a wetland plant, but can thrive in medium soils. Its leafless stems are bright to dark green and tubular, tapering from a base about 1/16" in diameter to an average height of 2'. Its flowers poke out of a slit near the slender tip. Common Rush actively grows during the spring and fall when soil temperatures are cool.



Clark Lake Advancement Association Natural Shores demonstration project storyline 2

Many factors contributed to our final layout not being exactly as the design. But expect even more changes.

Be prepared for controlled chaos and not a sculpted garden as these neat rows and isolated plants will morph into a wild array with a deep matrix of roots intended to hold the soil and impede runoff.

Clark Lake Advancement Association Natural Shores demonstration project storyline 2

This is the final post for storyline 2 but it is not the end of the project. Watch for periodic updates online and in your e-mail.

We are now in the maintenance phase which includes watering, weeding and plant replacement and additions.

We may need to further secure the coir logs depending on their tolerance of the winter, ice shoves and high water.

This is an educational site and signage will be upgraded in addition to brochures, on line resources and group presentations. Our success is gauged nt only be survival of the plants and erosion control but also by member awareness and the application of natural Shores Goals to their own property.