



Shoreline protection: It's more than just rip-rap

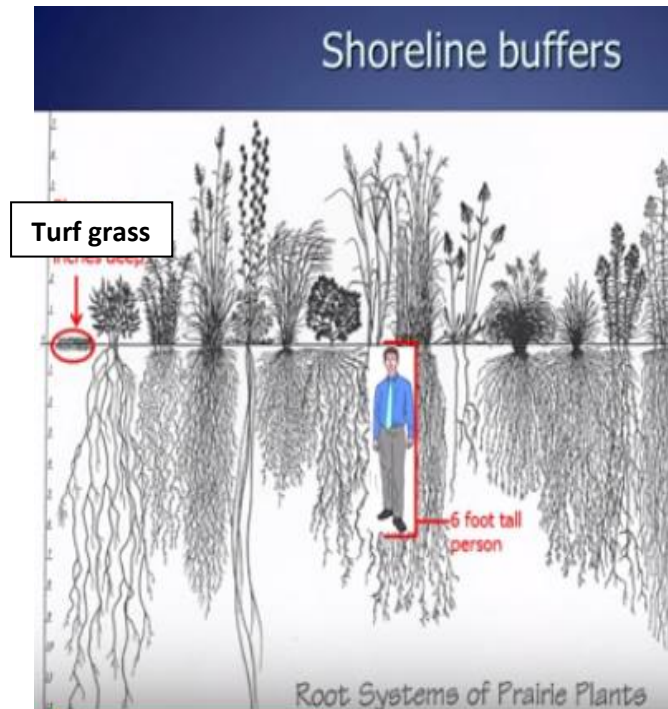
Clark Lake has had sustained elevated water levels for the last few years. The excessive spring rains combined with the chronic higher levels has resulted in many properties with erosion and loss of shoreline.

Many of you are contracting to have rip-rap applied to provide a protective barrier for the remaining shore. Rip-rap however only addresses part of the issue. A healthy shoreline should also include soil stabilization and adequate filtration to prevent erosion, runoff and pollution.

If you are spending the money for rip-rap, why not develop a plan to add extra protection for your property and the lake.

CLAA wants to assist you in meeting the Natural Shores goal of a "35 ft. vegetative buffer zone" (a strip of plants, trees and shrubs extending 35 ft. inland from the ordinary high water mark).

The deeper and complex roots of mature **native plants** are exponentially better than turf grass.



There is also an ordinance that limits new development to a 35 % "viewing corridor" (tree free view parallel to the shoreline) . This means that a 100 ft. lot should have at least 2-3 trees near the shore. Additional woody shrubs will also stabilize and beautify the shore.

Soil that is already threatened may also benefit from a few years of temporary stabilizers such as coir logs or blankets until the native plants mature and can protect the soil and filtrate efficiently.



CLAA has a demonstration of coir logs and native plants at the west side boat launch. We are partnering with the Ridges and Kangaroo Lake to get funding for owners who agree to expand their buffer. We are exploring options for making native plants and trees more affordable and accessible. We can discuss other strategies to promote an environmentally friendly shoreline.

Contact The Water Quality and Vegetation Control Committee at the CLAA website

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