



### **Natural Shorelines**

*Reduce erosion rates by up to 50% compared to heavily altered shorelines, as deep-rooted vegetation stabilizes soil.*

*Reduce sediment runoff by 70-90% and nutrient runoff by 40-80%.*

*Absorb and retain 40-50% more stormwater than mowed lawns or hard surfaces.*

*Cost 30-70% less than hard-engineered solutions.*

*And 70% of terrestrial species and 80% of aquatic species rely on shoreline vegetation during their life cycle.*

Many thanks to Quinte Conservation, FOCA and Watersheds Canada for this material.

## **Shoreland Naturalization**

**It's up to every property owner to live in balance with the waterfront ecosystem!**

**The popularity of retreating to Ontario's lakes for rest and recreation continues to grow. There are now over 300 properties on Moira Lake.** Development on the shoreline of our lake continues. In addition, more people are extending their time at the cottage to live there year-round. To preserve the lake environment that brought us here in the first place, it is imperative for us to understand our impacts and to know how to reduce them.

**Vegetated shoreland buffers are essential to the health and sustainability of Moira Lake.**



Source: Watersheds Canada

Unfortunately, the removal of native vegetation from shorelands is a harmful and growing trend and is a major factor in the decline of water quality and wildlife communities.

Excess nutrients in our lake cause increased rates of weed and algae growth. Some algae blooms are a health concern due to the toxins they produce, leading to serious concerns over water quality.

### **Vegetated shoreland buffers provide many benefits:**

- Naturally protect the water quality of our lake by intercepting harmful pollutants.
- Mitigate erosion.
- Provide food and shelter for wildlife, including many at-risk species.
- Protect freshwater ecosystems from the impacts of climate change.
- Contribute to the beauty and economic value of waterfront properties.
- Discourage Canada Geese: This means you won't have to deal with their waste or have nuisance interactions with these birds.

**Best of all, natural shorelines mean less work and more time to enjoy the lake.**

## Shoreland Naturalization: Resources

**A natural shoreline is considered the best approach to protecting a lake or river's edge.** Native plants require less maintenance, and are loved by butterflies, bees, and other animals.

**If you're looking for native plant alternatives**, check out the Watersheds Canada Native Plant Database at [Plant Database - Natural Edge \(watersheds.ca\)](https://watersheds.ca/plant-database-natural-edge). It will provide you with guidance on what is native to your area, including plant characteristics, water, light, and soil requirements.

**Quinte Conservation is a delivery partner of Watersheds Canada's Natural Edge Program.** Trained Conservation staff will walk your shoreline with you to discuss any concerns you have. With your input, they choose appropriate plants based on your land characteristics and height preference, and let you place them where you like.

Subsidized shoreline naturalization kits are available in 2025. Each kit costs \$451.

**Each kit includes:**

- A site visit and customized planting plan. Visits start on May 20 -21.
- A minimum of 50 native plants, including potted trees, shrubs, and wildflowers
- Coconut fiber mats for trees and shrubs
- Mulch for wildflowers
- Tree guards (as needed)
- A Plant Care Guide, Habitat Creation Guide, and Wildflower Garden Guide.

If you are interested in learning more about the project or connecting with Quinte Conservation staff for a confidential free site visit, please apply at [Shoreline Planting - Quinte Conservation](https://www.quinteconservation.ca/shoreline-planting).



Source: Quinte Conservation

**Other useful resources:**

- [Resources - Natural Edge](https://watersheds.ca/resources-natural-edge)
- [RestoringYourShoreline2022.pdf \(quinteconservation.ca\)](https://www.quinteconservation.ca/restoring-your-shoreline-2022.pdf)
- [FOCA Shoreline Guide FINAL ed 2 019.pdf](https://www.foca.on.ca/FOCA-Shoreline-Guide-FINAL-ed-2-019.pdf)
- [FINAL- Shoreline Naturalization Planting Plan Template \(foca.on.ca\)](https://www.foca.on.ca/FINAL-Shoreline-Naturalization-Planting-Plan-Template)
- [The Science Behind Vegetated Shoreline Buffers - Why the Ribbon of Life Matters \(foca.on.ca\)](https://www.foca.on.ca/The-Science-Behind-Vegetated-Shoreline-Buffers-Why-the-Ribbon-of-Life-Matters)

**Site visits are on a first come, first served basis. There is often a waitlist. Sign-up early!**