

# Forest County

## Cost-Share Program

### What is the Cost-Share Program?

- A program administered by the Forest County Land and Water Conservation Dept.
- Grant money is provided by the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade, & Consumer Protection (DATCP) to fund the program.
- Landowner pays for all project costs and is reimbursed 50% & up to 70% for eligible practices.
- Standards of DATCP (Chapter ATCP 50) & the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) must be followed

### What Does the Program Involve?

- Restoration of the buffer zone with native plants, shrubs, and trees.
- Erosion control methods such as rip rap, biologs, & other bio engineering methods (as permitted by the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR).)

### What is Covered by the Program?

- Native vegetation for buffer
- Erosion control materials
- Excavation costs
- Labor for installation - costs for a contractor can be reimbursed or landowner labor can be reimbursed at a rate of \$10.00 per hour.
- Geotextile fabric

### What is NOT Covered by the Program?

- Removal or installation of docks/piers.
- Removal or installation of steps, walkways, lifts, etc.
- Materials such as wood, brick, plaster, blacktop, or demolition material for rip rap use.

### How do I Enroll in the Program?

- Interested landowners can obtain an application from the Forest County Website ([www.co.forest.wi.gov](http://www.co.forest.wi.gov)) under the Land Conservation Dept. or by contacting the Land Conservation Dept. at (715) 478-3893.
- Once the application is received a site visit will be done by county staff to determine eligibility and consult with the landowner(s).
- If property is determined eligible:
  - Survey of shoreline will be conducted.
  - A plan will be designed
  - Landowner approval of plan(s)
  - Landowner obtains permits from appropriate agencies (DNR, Corp of Eng., Local Zoning)
  - Landowner obtains two (2) bids for project to be submitted for approval from committee
  - Contract and maintenance plan signed by owner
  - Project may begin!

## Why Restore & Protect the Shoreline?

- A healthy shoreline will improve water quality - i.e. filter runoff before entering the lake.
- Prevents erosion from lake and upland runoff
- Protects against losing shoreline
- Provides a healthy Habitat for wildlife - in & out of the water
- Less need to use fertilizers and pesticides
- Natural shorelines are attractive
- Natural vegetation screens structures & makes them less intrusive
- Native vegetation provides color and texture

## What are Buffer/Restoration Zones?

- Usually a 35' or more buffer strip adjacent to the shoreline
- Mowing is not allowed in this area
- A 30' view corridor is allowed
- Requires a planting plan of native trees, shrubs, flowers, grasses & sedges
- A 10 year maintenance plan is required

## What are Some of the Techniques used?

- Natural Lakeshore - Let your shore grow. Plants' roots help to hold the shore together, protecting it from erosion.
- Plantings - If there is not much natural vegetation, native plants can be planted for protection.
- Biolog - Made of coconut fiber, biologs protect the shoreline and allow for plants to grow directly on them, hiding the log over time. Biologs can be installed with some rock in front of it, plantings behind it, or both.
- Rip Rap - Rock is installed for extreme erosion problems. Live stakes can be put in the finished rock to promote plant growth on the rock.
- Vegetative Geogrid - A geotextile material can be laid out to prevent soil from being washed out. Plant plugs and seeding is used to promote plant growth. A bag style or blanket style is available.
- Demo/Experimental- if an unusual or exceptional plan is designed, the site can be used as a demo sites for others (if landowner agrees), or a new or different type of plan will be designed.

## Odds & Ends of the Program

- Landowner pays all costs up front & will be reimbursed after project is completed & certified
- NO work can be done prior to contract and maintenance plan signed by proper officials
- It takes time to implement the plan
- A perfect scenario is to survey in the fall, design in winter & construct in summer

## Other Cost Share Practices

- Critical area stabilization
- Filter strip
- Well abandonment
- Wetland restoration
- Waterway system
- Access road
- Sediment basin
- Cattle crossing
- Livestock fencing
- Manure storage system
- Manure storage abandonment
- Heavy use area protection
- Field windbreak
- Cattle mound