

Natural Shorelines:

- Help Control Shore Erosion
- Improve Water Quality
- Protect Fish and Wildlife Habitat



SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT:

- Benefits of natural shorelines.
- Lake friendly alternatives to seawalls.
- Permits needed for shoreline projects.
- Impacts of seawalls on lake quality.
- A guide for establishing a natural shoreline.
- A list of native plants to use and where to find them.
- Using rain gardens for runoff reduction.
- Source Materials



Seawalls:

- Eliminate Wildlife Habitat
- Degrade Water Quality
- Have Cumulative Negative Impacts on our Lake

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GRAVEL LAKE

SAVE OUR SHORE LINES

Info about
Natural Shorelines
and Seawalls

Why is a Natural Shoreline Important?

Erosion Control

Shoreline stabilization can be achieved by planting deep-rooted native plants near the shoreline or simply not mowing near the shore and leaving a buffer strip and allowing native plants to establish naturally. In situations of heavy erosion (less common to Gravel Lake), bioengineered solutions like coir logs can be used to reinforce native plant growth.

Improved Water Quality

Native plants intercept nutrients and pollutants before they enter the lake, leading to clearer water and decreased algal blooms.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

A natural shoreline also provides feeding habitat for fish, birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. It also provides easy access to and from the water for frogs and turtles.

This practice also deters property damaging geese!

What if I already have a Seawall?

- Plant lake friendly plants behind and around your existing seawall
- When the time comes to replace it, consider a natural shoreline..
- Help others you know that have seawalls, understand the negative impact of seawalls on our lake.

Facts About Seawalls

Definition

A seawall is any non-natural structure that is erected on a shoreline including timber, cement, rocks and metal.

Wave Reflection

Seawalls and hardened shorelines don't allow for the absorption and dispersal of wave energy, they reflect wave energy.

Habitat Elimination

Seawalls eliminate habitat required for fish and wildlife feeding, nesting, and spawning. Seawalls also act as a wildlife barrier, impeding natural movement.

Degraded Water Quality

Seawalls cause the suspension of sediments, increasing lake turbidity and algae. Seawalls also promote runoff, lowering the water quality of the lake.

Cumulative Impacts

The effects of multiple shoreline developments around a lake accumulate over time, impairing peoples' use of the water.

Permits

Permits are required for seawalls and most shoreline projects.