

# Natural Shoreline Landscaping:

The act of creating landscapes that restore and preserve Michigan's lakeshores for today and for future generations.



Photo: Mary A. Wilson



Photo: Brian Majka

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY** | Extension



Photo: Mary A. Wilson



Photo: Bill Bartodziej

## Answers to Property Owner Questions about Natural Shorelines on Inland Lakes

For more resources and information, please visit:  
[www.shoreline.msu.edu](http://www.shoreline.msu.edu) and [www.mishorelinepartnership.org](http://www.mishorelinepartnership.org)

**Natural shoreline landscaping strives to:**

- Work with existing vegetation and topography
- Minimize soil disturbance
- Encourage water infiltration
- Reduce runoff and erosion
- Improve wildlife and fish habitat
- Decrease the intensity of landscape management in sensitive shoreline areas



Photo: Brian Majka



**Natural shorelines can:**

- Reduce noise
- Increase privacy
- Deter geese
- Fix problem areas
- Reduce wave energy
- Increase 'curb' appeal
- Create special places



New England Aster



Joe-Pye Weed



Spiderwort

Photo: Mary A. Wilson



Canada Anemone

For a list of native shoreline plants, please visit: [www.mishorelinepartnership.org](http://www.mishorelinepartnership.org).

## Why create a natural shoreline?

- To stabilize eroding soils
- To protect lakes from pollutant runoff
- To support native plant and animal species important to a healthy lake ecosystem



Swamp Milkweed



Green Bulrush



Boneset



Highbush Cranberry/Arrowwood viburnums

## Why native plants?

Native plants create habitats that support our native fish, wildlife, birds and the organisms on which they depend. The use of native plants will allow you to create a sustainable natural environment that benefits both you and your lake.

Photo: Mary A. Wilson

# Examples of naturalized properties

BEFORE

AFTER



Property A



Property B



Property C

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