



SHORELINE BUFFER PROGRAM

THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS
HEALTHIER LAKES AND RIVERS



Last Update
March 2024

218-732-0121
www.hubbardswcd.org

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The goal of the Shoreline Buffer Program is to improve or maintain water quality of our lakes and rivers through the promotion and installation of shoreline buffers. A shoreline buffer is a strip of vegetation between a developed area like a yard, home, driveway, etc., that is designed to intercept and treat stormwater runoff. An average residential riparian lot can contribute over 1/5 of a pound of phosphorus to the waterbody every year.

Program At A Glance

- Technical Assistance On Shoreline Erosion
- Technical Assistance on Stormwater Issues
- Planting Design
- Planting Assistance
- 50% Cost Share on materials
- Property specific planting plan
- Habitat and Healthy Water Focus
- Shoreline Buffer Sign (optional)

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

To ensure that projects in the Shoreline Buffer Program meet the intended outcomes the following guidelines must be followed to be eligible for cost share.

- Plants must be approved by the Hubbard SWCD prior to planting.
- Seed must be from a MNDOT Certified Seed Dealer.
- Any DNR or County Permits must be obtained before work is started.
- Cost share funds are not eligible to address conditions on variances or violations related to the Hubbard County Shoreland Ordinance or any other applicable State, Federal, or local regulations.
- Cost Share will be done on a reimbursement basis.
- No work or purchases that happen before a cost share agreement has been approved shall be eligible for reimbursement.
- All projects must be maintained for a minimum of five years.



ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

To ensure that projects in the Shoreline Buffer Program meet the intended outcomes the following guidelines must be followed.

- Funding may be prioritized to specific areas depending on funding guidelines and watersheds.
- Funding may be limited from year to year.
- Technical assistance is still available even if you do not receive funding.
- An application is not a guarantee of funding but may be resubmitted for the next deadline if not funded.
- A landowner may reapply to expand buffer along shoreline but may not apply to replant the same area unless failure of planting was outside of the landowners control (flooding, ice push, and other). Neglect of watering and maintenance is not eligible for a replanting.



NEXT STEPS

A shoreline buffer is the first step to a healthier lake. However it will take more than just one buffer to make a large impact so get your neighbors or other lake residents involved. A large adoption of shoreline buffers can reduce a large amount of phosphorus and other nutrients from entering the lake. Just 10 new buffers can reduce algae growth by around 1000 lbs per year.

How We Can Help

The Hubbard SWCD is happy to speak with Lake Associations to help promote shoreline stewardship. If there is a lake association meeting or event you would like to promote shoreline stewardship, we are more than happy to present the program or provide informational flyers and pamphlets. We can also provide technical assistance for a wide range of topics including major erosion, culvert issues, to stormwater issues.

If you wish to have us present or would like to pick up informational material please reach out to Jake Shaughnessy the Water Quality Resource Technician.

jake@hubbardswcd.org or 218-252-5391

MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance is vital for the long term success and effectiveness of a shoreline buffer. Maintenance is especially vital during vegetation establishment and becomes minimal once established.

Maintenance Tips

- Water as needed to promote growth
- Mow or weed whip during the first year when weed growth hits around 8 inches
- Hand weeding may be required to remove shorter weeds and vines
- Cut back dormant plant material each spring to promote early season growth and diversity
- Remove thatch layer every 3-4 seasons to promote diversity (rake or burn)
- An occasional burning can be beneficial to maintain biodiversity by resetting the plant to plant biodiversity

