

Shoreline practices

There are a variety of different types of shoreline practices that can be used around White Lake. Steel or concrete walls, crushed concrete or rock riprap are both considered “hardened shorelines.” Some shorelines are left natural and not stabilized. Other shorelines have a traditional manicured lawn right down to the water’s edge.

The White Lake Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project is establishing an increasingly popular and entirely different type of shoreline at the seven project sites - “soft” or “living” shorelines.

Here’s why --



When a shoreline is hardened by concrete, steel, or stone, the connection between land and water and the natural dynamics of the shoreline is limited. There is little fish and wildlife habitat, which results in reduced fish and wildlife populations.

Traditional manicured lawns right to the water’s edge displace what used to be beneficial vegetation -- native plants that protected the lake from sediment, chemical fertilizers, and nutrient runoff.



Shorelines left natural may seem a better option, but they provide little protection from erosion and, without re-establishment of native plants, can be subject to invasive species.

“Soft” or “living shorelines” are a happy compromise for both the shoreline and property owners, providing protection from erosion, while also ensuring a place for beneficial plants and wildlife.

