

# Stewardship Grant Program SHORELAND HEALTH PROJECT

Up to \$1,500 to add native plants in your shoreland zone.

[rpbcwd.org/stewardship-grant](http://rpbcwd.org/stewardship-grant)

## Shoreland is the area of land along the lake.

It is a transition zone that can serve as a protective buffer to the lake, reducing stormwater runoff that carries pollution and causes erosion. The level of protection largely depends on the type of vegetation in the shoreland.

### What is the goal of a grant for shoreland health?

To help lake residents improve their shoreland health score by adding native plant groundcover within their shoreland zone. Native plants protect lake health by decreasing stormwater runoff, reducing erosion, supporting soil health, and providing wildlife habitat.

### Who is eligible?

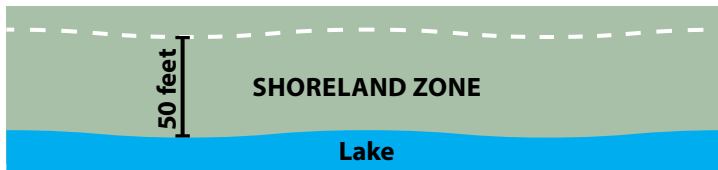
Owners of residential lots\* with shoreline on these lakes:

- Ann
- Lucy
- Riley
- Duck
- Mitchell
- Silver
- Lotus
- Red Rock
- Susan

\* Deeded residential lake access lots also qualify.

### What qualifies as shoreland?

To be eligible as a Shoreland Health Project, the project area must be located within the shoreland zone, the strip of land between the lake and 50 feet into the yard.



### How much is the grant and what's eligible?

**The maximum award for a Shoreland Health Project is 75% of eligible costs up to \$1,500.** Eligible costs include native plants (wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, trees, etc.), materials related to erosion control and plant protection, and professional labor.

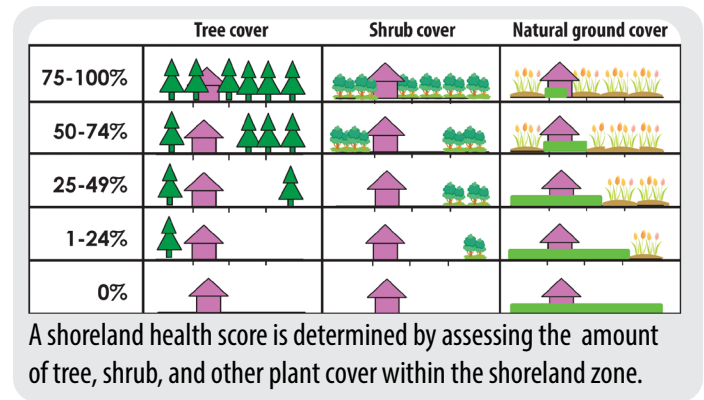
Other important points:

- **The minimum project cost is \$200.**
- **The project must be an improvement of existing condition.** This means improving the vegetation type (e.g. replacing turf grass), restoring an eroded area, or replacing hard surface.
- **The planting area must be at least 100 square feet.** This can be multiple areas that add up to 100 or more square feet.
- **Plants must be natural-form natives (no cultivars) and grown locally.** Native elm trees are excepted from the "no cultivars" rule as varieties resistant to Dutch Elm Disease are allowed.
- There is no required minimum on native plant species diversity, bloom time, or quantity.
- Maximum allowable costs have been set for native plants and other materials. See *Award Maximums and Eligibility* handout.
- In-kind labor may be part of project costs if planned in advance, but post-installation professional maintenance funds are not available for this project type.

### What is my property's shoreland health score?

To learn more about the shoreland health monitoring program and see your most current shoreland health score, visit:

[rpbcwd.org/shoreland-health](http://rpbcwd.org/shoreland-health)



### How does shoreland quality impact lake health?

The water quality and overall health of a lake is determined by multiple factors including the quality of its shoreland. When shoreland is dominated by hard surfaces (e.g. roofs) or standard turfgrass, more stormwater flows into a lake, increasing pollution levels such as phosphorus.

Adding native plants such as trees, shrubs, and wildflowers within your shoreland helps improve lake health in these ways:

- Buffer strips of vegetation, rain gardens, and trees help capture and filter stormwater runoff.
- Aquatic plants and shoreline vegetation such as bulrush dissipate wave energy, minimizing shoreline erosion and scouring of lake beds.
- Native plants in and near the water provide essential habitat to support aquatic animals throughout their life cycles.
- Trees near the lake provide shade and help reduce water temperatures, making the water more hospitable to aquatic organisms and less likely to result in algal blooms.
- The extensive root systems of native plants protect soil from erosion. Turfgrass does not deter erosion, which results in decreased lake water clarity and degraded fish spawning beds.

**Interested in a bigger project? Restore part or all of your shoreline with a Shoreline Restoration Project.**

This type of project qualifies for up to 75% cost share, up to \$5,000, for restoring your shoreline to a natural condition.