

Lake Shore Restoration with A Retention Zone

What is a Lake Shore Retention Zone?

An area of two or more feet in width planted along the shoreline with deep rooted plants. Any deep rooted plants can be used, but plants native to North Carolina are encouraged.

Why do we Need a Lake Shore Retention Zone?

To ensure that we keep the quality and clarity of the lake water at the highest level possible, it is important that we minimize the amount of unwanted chemicals, fertilizers, sediment and debris from entering. Lawn grass with its minimal short root system is ineffective in accomplishing the above, and in fact, it can contribute to poor water quality. Grass planted to the waters edge is ineffective in controlling erosion due to wave action, and the fertilizers applied to it run into the lake. The runoff of phosphates and fertilizer chemicals hasten the growth of unwanted lake weeds. Grass clippings contribute to unwanted silt when blown into the lake.

Why Native Plants?

Native plants are adapted to local climate conditions and insects and thus do not need fertilizers or pesticides. After the first year they seldom need watering and are easily maintained. A list of suggested native plants can be found on the home page of the LTCA web site click on "Other Information & Map"s then click on "Plant List".

Benefits of a Buffer.

In addition to maintaining a high level of water quality clarity, Retention Zones will keep nuisance animals like Canada Geese off your lawn. Think of it, NO MORE GOOSE POOP ON YOUR LAWN! Geese soon figure out the plastic coyote isn't going to hurt them. However they fear that there may be predators hiding in the Retention Zone. Also, the native plants you use will become resting areas for dragon flies, frogs and the like which translates to fewer mosquitos. Shorelines can be planted to preserve and enhance lake views, accommodate recreation and because there is less lawn to mow, increase your leisure time.



Eroded lake shore, could be prevented with a Retention Zone.



NO MORE GOOSE POOP, with Retention Zone.



No need for plastic coyotes with a Retention Zone.



A Retention Zone can be one type of plant, tree or bush.



A Retention Zone can be many different plants and flowers.