FACT SHEET ON RE-VEGETATION OF SHORELAND PROPERTIES

Shoreland properties are more desirable and valuable than ever before. Their popularity, as an escape from urbanization, has resulted in many lakeshores and streambanks growing more houses than trees. Impacts of land disturbing activities involved in development of these properties, such as vegetation removal and soil excavation, are continually affecting the water quality and the biological communities within and around these waters.

Impervious surfaces, such as buildings, paved parking areas and compacted soils cause a greater volume and velocity of runoff which unfortunately carries associated nutrients to surface waters. In addition to declining water quality due to pollutants (phosphorus, fertilizers, etc.), fish and wildlife habitat and natural scenery have suffered with the boom in development of riparian land.

Landscaping and re-vegetation plans can minimize the impact of development by placing less emphasis on lawns and more emphasis on incorporating native trees, shrubs and ground cover which are uniquely adapted to the soil, moisture, light, and temperature of your lot, and require less maintenance.

This hand-out gives an over-view of what constitutes a re-vegetation plan. By following a recommended plan designed specifically for your property, you can improve your land and contribute to the environmental quality.

Re-vegetation planning steps:

1. Initial site assessment:
    a. Identification of any native species present and their location, density, and vigor
    b. Identification of any invasive species or noxious weeds present and their location, density, and vigor
    c. Assessment of the density and vigor of any turf grasses present

2. Re-vegetation Plan
    a. Natural Recovery
        1. Existing native vegetation present with adequate seed/or root sources
        2. Establish a “no-mow” and no disturbance area
    b. Accelerated Recovery-Planted Buffer Method
        1. Removing undesirable vegetation and site preparation
        2. Calculate native planting densities including Trees/shrubs/plant plugs/seeding
        3. Buffer distance 35 Ft. or (15’ from principle structure) measurement from the Ordinary High Watermark (OHWM)
        4. Follow guidelines in (Wisconsin Biology Technical Note 1: Shoreland Habitat) found at http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov

The individual plan shall include:

- ❖ Photos of site before and after re-vegetation
- ❖ Site diagram or map
- ❖ Preparation schedule
- ❖ Planting dates and schedule
- ❖ Care and handling of plant materials
- ❖ Watering plan
- ❖ Maintenance plan including management of invasive species
- ❖ Plant and seed calculation worksheet

Native plant community lists will be used to select plant species specific to the county and region.

Exposed soil will need stabilization. Where necessary filter fabric fences will be placed to capture sediment below exposed slopes.

Viewing corridors that are oriented somewhat obliquely to the shore, or curved corridors are preferable to those that are perpendicular to the shoreline. This reduces the visual impact of human activities in the shoreland area.

Over the long term, keep the following guidelines for re-vegetation plans in mind:

- Do not fertilize
- Do not mow
- Do not rake
- Do not "clean up" fallen limbs or trees
- Allow native vegetation to re-grow
- Plants lost due to desiccation, deer browsing or for any other reason must be replaced
- The use of fertilizers and pesticides is prohibited
- At growing season's end, allow all dead vegetation to remain in place. (It becomes a valuable seed source for next year's growth, provides food and cover for wildlife, and will help to cover the soil and slow spring runoff)
- Try to concentrate compatible human activities in one part of the property leaving some undisturbed areas for wildlife
- Work with the natural topography and limitation of the site

Good luck with your restoration project. Land Conservation staff and the surrounding communities appreciate your efforts to protect and improve the quality of our environment.

Any questions or concerns, contact the Land Conservation Department at 920-787-0443 M-F 8:00-4:30.

The Land Conservation Department also offers the service of writing Re-Vegetation Plans for a minimum fee of $200. Review and Approval of a submitted Re-Vegetation Plan has a fee of $100.