

BEFORE



Lakefront lawn planted with Kentucky bluegrass (typical lawn grass) all the way to the water's edge. Such lawns often experience erosion problems and lack natural beauty.

AFTER



The same lakefront lawn one year after completing a restoration. This shoreline was intact after near record high water levels. Many wildflowers are seen in full bloom. Several species of wildlife were also found foraging on site.

partnering to Restore SHORELINES

Slow Erosion

Improve Water Quality

Enhance Natural Beauty

Provide Habitat for Fish & Wildlife

Reduce Maintenance

Contact our staff
to discuss your options.

**South Dakota
Game, Fish & Parks
603 E. 8th Avenue
Webster, SD 57078
605-345-3381**



www.gfp.sd.gov



PARTNERING TO RESTORE SHORELINES

Experiencing a loss of shoreline due to erosion? Do you want to do something proactive to help reduce the “pea soup” algae bloom on the lake? Want to enhance the natural beauty of your property while attracting a variety of wildlife? Has mowing steep slopes or wet spots become a hazard or hassle? If you answered a yes to any of the above, then you may be a candidate to partner with South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks to restore your shoreline into natural shoreline habitat. There are several reasons to own natural shoreline habitat:

- > stop erosion by installing native plants. Natives have a root system of up to 14 feet deep, whereas Kentucky blue grass (typical lawn grass) has a root system of only a few inches deep.
- > improve water quality by reducing the intensity of algae blooms. A 30 foot wide native plant buffer removes 75-85% of phosphorus which causes algae blooms.
- > enhance natural beauty, thus increasing property values.
- > provide essential habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife. This could include everything from rearing habitat for crappies to food for butterflies, hummingbirds and leopard frogs.
- > reduce the amount of your time that is spent on mowing or other lawn maintenance.

Shorelines along some popular South Dakota lakes are being developed at a quick rate. For some, as much as 90% of the shoreline no longer has natural functioning habitat. This may result in increased frequency and intensity of summer and winter fish kills. What can you do to help improve South Dakota lakes? Partner with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks by contacting a biologist to see if the native plant buffer program is right for you. Highlights of the program include free plants, seed, landscaping blocks, erosion control materials, mulch, installation and technical advice concerning native plantings and erosion control.



Mowing steep slopes can be difficult and possibly dangerous to mow. The time spent manicuring such areas could be better spent fishing, boating, swimming or other outdoor traditions that South Dakotans enjoy.

Photo courtesy Phil Nasby, Minnesota DNR



Butterfly found foraging among black eyed susans.



Leopard frog found cooling off in the shade among Canada anemone.

