

# What Should I Do With My Shoreline?

The two common approaches to control shoreline erosion are either installing rock / “riprap” or using native vegetation to anchor the shoreline. Below are some pros and cons of both methods.

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## Vegetated Shoreline

### Pros:

- Relatively inexpensive
- Cost Share is available for shoreline restoration projects
- Long roots of native plants filter out pollution before it reaches the water
- Attracts birds and butterflies
- Flowers add color and visual continuity of shorelines around the lake
- Adds privacy
- Plants take up excess nutrients reducing algal blooms
- Long rooted plants help decrease erosion and flooding
- Vegetation discourages geese from congregating (feel vulnerable to predators in taller vegetation)
- Plants provide oxygen for fish
- Aquatic plants serve as wave-breaks slowing down incoming waves
- More permanent fix for erosion problems

### Cons:

- Project takes time to plan and design
- Plants take 1-2 growing seasons to establish
- Weeding is necessary for the first two years



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## Rock

### Pros:

- Controls erosion
- No planning required
- Little weeding requirement



### Cons:

- Expensive
- Does not filter out pollution; grass clippings wash into lake adding excess nutrients
- Does not provide animal habitat other than geese
- Chops up shoreline visually; each shoreline looks different leading to an overall “hodge-podge”
- Does not take up excess nutrients
- Does not help decrease flooding
- Does not discourage geese from congregating
- Does not provide oxygen for fish
- Is not a permanent fix to erosion problems