

# Residential Shoreline Wildlife Habitat and Buffer Restoration Program

## Purpose

To protect wildlife habitat on undeveloped lakeshore property and restore wildlife habitat removed by past shoreline development through the planting of trees and shrubs. Protect and improve water quality through the implementation of shoreline buffer strips to reduce runoff from lakeshore property.



## Eligibility

Eligible properties are those developed prior to January 1, 2010 or undeveloped lakeshore property that will implement buffers as part of a landscape plan for new construction during the project. Commercial lakeshore lots and multi-unit residential developments are not eligible. Lake shore properties zoned as agricultural lands will not be eligible for this program, but would be eligible for the Riparian Area Management and/or Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) programs.

## Requirements

To receive cost share and incentive payments the participant must agree to the following conditions;

Sign a 20 year contract between the landowner and the Day, Marshall or Roberts Conservation Districts. Proof of landowner ownership is required. In the event ownership of property changes, all stipulations as specified in the contract will continue with the new owner(s).

Landowners may be required to stabilize their shoreline with rock riprap (field stone or fractured rock) if severe erosion is already evident and taking place to be eligible for the program. Shoreline restoration utilizing riprap must include adequate sized rock, erosion control fabric underlay, and proper slope and height.

Vegetative buffers along naturally rocky shorelines and shorelines protected by rock riprap will be required to include trees and shrubs. Shorelines currently stabilized with wood abutments, steel or concrete seawalls will be eligible for only vegetative buffer strips. Shorelines stabilized with landscape block will not be eligible for the program unless the blocks are proven to be secured with mortar etc.

A minimum two rows of native shrubs that include false indigo, dogwood and/or willow species will be required along the top of shorelines stabilized with rock riprap. At least one species of tall tree other than green ash will be required to be planted per 20 feet of shoreline in the buffer zone. Grass buffer strips must be a minimum of 20 feet wide (including shrubs) starting from the top of the revetment on developed shorelines or from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) set by the SD DENR on undeveloped shorelines. Vegetative buffers can be planted to blue joint or a mixture of native grasses and forbs suited to erosion control. The buffer zone cannot be mowed however spot control of noxious weeds will be allowed. A minimum seventy-five percent (75%) of the shoreline length must be included in the buffer zone with the remaining twenty-five percent (25%) left for docks, lake access etc.

On new lakeshore developments after January 1, 2010 with non-disturbed shoreline vegetation (check with local zoning laws as some may prohibit disturbance of shoreline vegetation) a onetime incentive payment will be paid to the landowner as an incentive to leave this area undisturbed if not required by local zoning ordinances.

## **Cost Share and Incentive Payments**

Cost share is available for reestablishing shoreline habitat or protecting existing habitat.

The property owner will be reimbursed sixty percent (60%) of the cost of trees, shrubs, and grass and flowers seeds or live plugs, wattles, fabric bundles, and erosion control fabric.

Cost share is not available to pay for rock riprap; however technical assistance in designing rock revetments is available from the project.

The property owner will receive a onetime incentive payment of \$5 per lineal foot of shoreline buffer implemented on reestablished or existing shoreline riparian areas;

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