

Waukesha COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND LAND USE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Projects Restore Local Shorelines

Recently, two local projects have been completed to protect and improve our shorelines. Shoreline restoration typically involves planting native plants in combination with some type of natural fiber roll to protect and hold plantings in place while they get established. The native plants provide protection from erosion, and provide habitat and food sources for wildlife at the same time. The use of rip-rap (large rocks laid over synthetic fabric) is becoming less common, since natural restoration holds more long term benefits for the overall ecological health of our lakes and rivers.

One of the projects is located on the shore of Pewaukee Lake along Oak Street. In spite of last summer's flooding, the plants continued growing. Local Pewaukee School children were involved in the planting at this site.



The fiber roll along the waters edge holds the shoreline in place while the new plantings get established on Pewaukee Lake.

The other site is located along the Mukwonago River just east of Highway ES in the Village of Mukwonago Park. Native plants were also used in this project. Native plants have large root systems that help hold the soil in place and prevent erosion. The plants also act as a buffer along the waters edge, helping prevent polluted runoff from entering the river. This site was installed in the fall of 2008, so visit it this spring and watch it green up and grow!

If you are lucky enough to own some shoreland, consider incorporating native plantings on your property. It's a great way to help protect your lake. You can learn more ways to keep our waters clean at www.waukeshacounty.gov/cleanwater . Shoreland restoration is just one step to keeping our waters clean—One Step at a Time.

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