



Why are shoreland trees important?

Trees and shrubs are an excellent, inexpensive and attractive way to control runoff and erosion.

- Roots hold soil and **help stabilize slopes** by trapping and using water that would otherwise run off.
- Roots **increase soil porosity**, allowing water to infiltrate rather than run off.
- Vegetation **filters out nutrients and pesticides** that could otherwise reach a lake or stream and cause algal blooms or excessive plant growth.
- Trees and shrubs also **improve air quality** by taking in carbon dioxide and giving off oxygen.
- Trees provide shade and help **moderate weather** extremes such as hot sun or strong winds.
- Trees and shrubs **offer habitat for wildlife**.
- Trees and shrubs **provide privacy** for humans by screening adjacent property.

Why retain existing trees and shrubs?

Natural vegetation is best because:

- Adapted to the local climate.
- Usually has strong, well-established root systems. These root systems provide better erosion control, water-cleaning capacity and stability for plants.
- Offer more typical habitat for wildlife.
- More resistant to pests and disease