



Establishing No-mow Zones

Preventing erosion and intercepting runoff

Lake friendly living
means using lakeshore
BEST MANAGEMENT
PRACTICES

BMP

Establishing No-mow Zones

STANDARDS

Recreation Area

- Minimal lawn area
- Soil erosion is not occurring on site (no eroding pathways, or exposed dirt)
- No pesticide, fertilizer, or unfiltered runoff to lake

LAKE BENEFITS

Establishing no-mow zones and letting your lakeshore "Go Wild" naturally stabilizes the shore, filters and cleans dirty runoff, maintains greater privacy, increases property value, enhances scenic beauty, prevents erosion and allows for healthy habitat for fish, birds, and other important species.

Establishing No-mow Zones

Description: A mix of trees, shrubs, and ground-cover between camps or houses which is not mowed.

Purpose: To create a well-developed area of native vegetation cover between camps or houses and lake shores to act as a protective strip intercepting and absorbing run-off and preventing erosion, while also offering scenic and ecological advantages.

How to:

1. Stop mowing a zone adjacent to the shoreline as wide as feasible for your property. Prioritize lawn areas and move them back from the shoreline wherever possible. Even if it is only a few feet beyond the top of the bank, it will help stabilize the shoreline. A "no-mow" zone will allow new woody plants to colonize the area and species that are already on the shoreline will grow and thrive.
2. You can then selectively prune out the species you don't want and encourage those you do. Woody plants (trees and shrubs), groundcover, and wildflowers all hold the soil together better than mowed grass, which has shallow roots.
3. Add desired plants to a no-mow zone (see Planting and Maintaining Vegetation Areas BMP):



The owners of this camp not only save time and money by having a no-mow zone, but the aesthetic quality of the area is increased.



This camp owner lets a 10-foot wide strip "go wild" adjacent to the lake. Most woody vegetation is pruned to keep it open.

Establishing No-mow Zones

Preventing erosion and intercepting runoff

- ◆ Select native species to avoid spreading aggressive exotic (invasive) species.
- ◆ Select plants based on their mature size and characteristics. For instance, choose shrubs if you want to be able to see over the top of them. Or select trees for privacy and shade, and as the tree grows prune off some of the lower branches so you can see the lake to the extent desired.
- ◆ Select species that provide fruits for birds or yourself to eat, or shrubs with attractive flowers.
- ◆ Transplanting plants from farther uphill on your property to the lakeshore saves nursery costs and you can be sure the species grows well in your area. Late fall or early spring before the buds open are the best times to transplant.

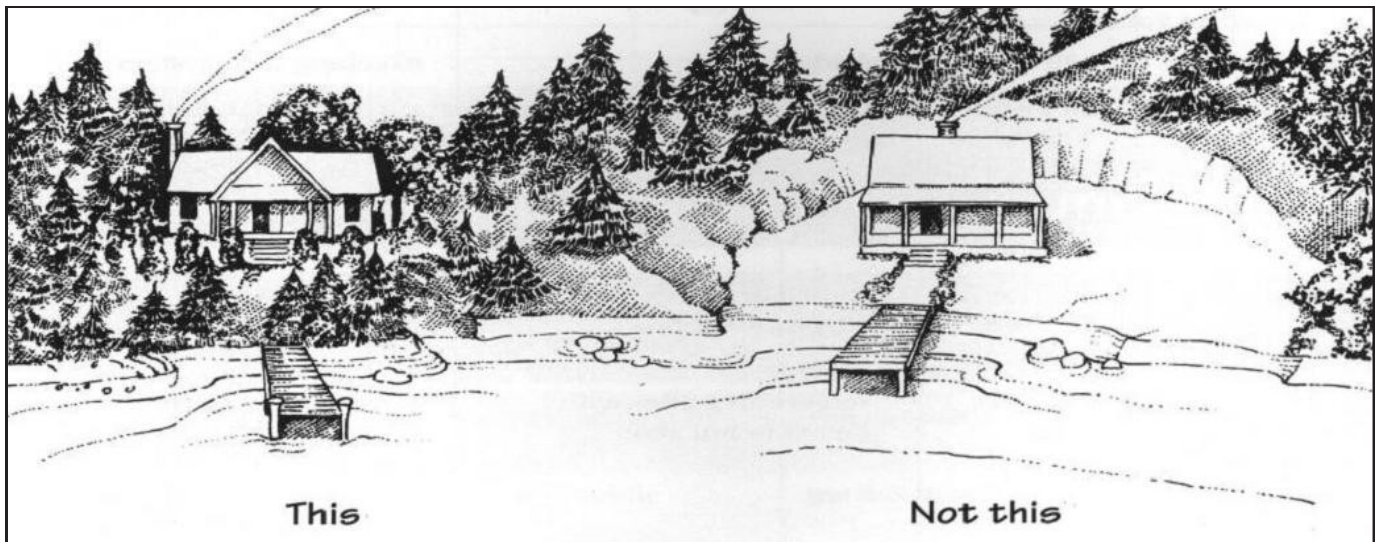


Illustration courtesy of Maine Dep of Environmental Protection

One More Note:

Fallen trees, leaves, overhanging branches, aquatic plants and rocky bottoms are where it's at in terms of healthy fish and wildlife habitat in a lake. Try to leave some sections of your shoreline "wild" too: do not rake, or remove trees and aquatic plants in some areas of your shoreland. By coordinating these sections with your neighbors, you can provide areas of good habitat between camps of greater size.

