

Healthy Living Strategy: Shorelines

Shoreline Vegetation in Muskoka

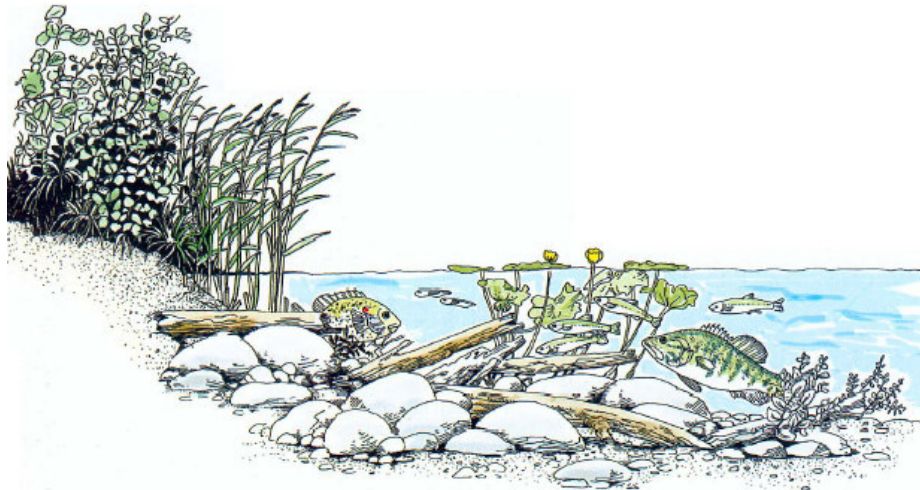
The basis of a natural ecosystem is a complex combination of vegetation that forms canopy, understory, and herbaceous layers. It is easier to maintain this complexity than to restore it after most of the vegetation has been removed.

Plant species native to the Muskoka area are adapted to the diverse weather and soil conditions found here. They are more resistant to pests and diseases, and are more likely able to tolerate droughts.

One of the most critical areas to maintain native vegetation is along your shoreline. Shoreline vegetation benefits water quality by reducing the amount of sediment, nutrients, organic matter and pesticides that enter our rivers and lakes.


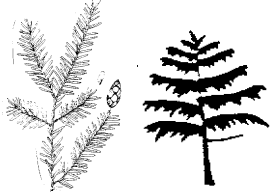



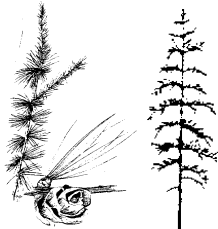
There is no better way to prevent soil erosion than to leave your shoreline in its natural state. Plant roots anchor the soil, preventing it from being washed away by currents, waves and rain. This preserves fish spawning beds, which can become destroyed by sediment accumulation due to erosion.

Overhanging branches from trees and shrubs shade the waters to prevent overheating and provide cover for small fish and other aquatic organisms. Debris such as logs and boulders also provide cover for many species, spawning areas for fish, and will serve to reduce the impact of waves on your shoreline.

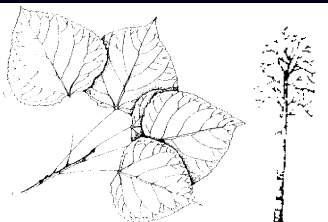


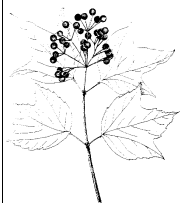




Many native plant species are extremely attractive. You can create an aesthetically pleasing property while providing food and habitat for wildlife, preventing erosion, and maintaining water quality. The following chart lists some plants that can be found on a natural shoreline in Muskoka.

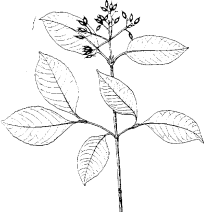







COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	DESCRIPTION	HABITAT	VISUAL
TREES				
BLACK ASH	<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous hardwood up to 20 m tall Shade intolerant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrient rich soils Can tolerate standing water for many weeks 	
EASTERN HEMLOCK	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evergreen conifer up to 21 m tall Shade tolerant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cool, moist sites Lakeshores 	
EASTERN WHITE CEDAR	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small evergreen reaching 15 m in height 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wet organic sites Variety of soil and light conditions 	
EASTERN WHITE PINE	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coniferous evergreen up to 30 m high Thrives in full sunlight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grows best on moist, sandy loam 	
SILVER MAPLE	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous hardwood up to 30 m tall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moist to wet hardwood swamps River and stream banks 	
TAMARACK	<i>Larix laricina</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium-sized conifer up to 20 m tall Needles turn yellow and drop in the fall Bloom period: April- May 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moist to wet areas 	









COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	DESCRIPTION	HABITAT	VISUAL
TREMBLING ASPEN	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous hardwood up to 30 m tall Shade intolerant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dry to moist, sandy to clayey sites Wet organic sites 	
WHITE BIRCH	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous hardwood up to 24 m tall Bloom period: May 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All moisture regimes and soil textures 	
SHRUBS				
BOG LAUREL	<i>Kalmia polifolia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evergreen shrub less than 1 m tall Bloom period: May- June 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wet organic to moist upland sites 	
HIGHBUSH CRANBERRY	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous shrub 1-4 m tall Bloom period: June- July 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moist to wet areas Swamps, bogs, shores 	
LABRADOR TEA	<i>Rhododendron groenlandicum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erect evergreen shrub up to 1 m tall Shade intolerant Bloom period: June- July 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moist to wet soils Open-canopy coniferous forests 	
LEATHERLEAF	<i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low evergreen shrub up to 1 m high Bloom period: May 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wet organic areas Shorelines 	



COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	DESCRIPTION	HABITAT	VISUAL
NORTHERN WILD RAISIN	<i>Viburnum cassinoides</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erect deciduous shrub up to up to 5 m tall Bloom period: June 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wet organic conifer swamps Moist to dry, clayey to sandy areas 	
PUSSY WILLOW	<i>Salix discolor</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large deciduous shrub 2-6 m tall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damp meadows Shorelines 	
RED-OSIER DOGWOOD	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous shrub 1-3 m tall Bloom period: June- July 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wet organic sites Swamps, shorelines 	
SPECKLED ALDER	<i>Alnus incana ssp. rugosa</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large deciduous shrub up to 8 m high Shade intolerant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moist sites Streambanks, swamps 	
SWEETGALE	<i>Myrica gale</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciduous shrub 1-1.5 m high Bloom period: April- May 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wet habitats around ponds, rivers and bogs 	
HERBS				
BLUE-FLAG IRIS	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergent perennial herb 0.6-0.9 m tall Bloom period: May- July 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wet areas Swamps, marshes, shorelines 	



COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	DESCRIPTION	HABITAT	VISUAL
CARDINAL-FLOWER	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial herb 0.5-2 m tall Bloom period: July- September 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shorelines, streambanks, wet meadows 	
PICKERELWEED	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergent perennial herb up to 1 m tall Bloom period: July- August 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Still shallow waters 	
ROUND-LEAVED SUNDEW	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small perennial herb 5-25 cm tall Feeds on insects Bloom period: June- August 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrient-poor soils Wet sand Silty and boggy shores 	
ROYAL FERN	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delicate perennial fern 0.6-1.8 m tall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wet shorelines of lakes and streams 	
SOFT-LEAVED SEDGE	<i>Carex disperma</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial sedge 5-60 cm tall Bloom period: June- August 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wet organic conifer swamps 	
SPOTTED JOE-PYE-WEED	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial herb up to 2 m tall Bloom period: July- September 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moist soils Wet clearings, shorelines 	
WHITE WATER-LILY	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergent perennial herb Grows 2-2.5 m to reach surface of water Bloom period: June- September 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiet waters such as slow streams, ponds, and lake margins 	