






Lake Charlevoix Shoreline Stewardship Program Launch

We are thrilled to announce the official launch of the Lake Charlevoix Shoreland Stewardship Program- **Shore Smart!** The LCA has contracted with Jennifer Buchanan for riparian site visits and shoreland recommendations. Jennifer will share her lake protection knowledge of watershed projects gained through a bachelor's degree in natural resources, master's degree in landscape architecture and 20 years of experience at Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.

Here is what the **Shore Smart** program entails:

Free Site Visits for Riparians

As part of this initiative, we are offering site visits to all property owners along the shoreland. These visits provide an opportunity for property owners to have their concerns heard and assessed by our expert. The site visits will focus on addressing various concerns, including:

-  **Shoreline Erosion:** Identifying potential erosion issues and recommending effective solutions to protect your property and the lake's integrity.
-  **Greenbelt Maintenance and Restoration:** Assisting in the restoration of greenbelts to enhance ecological diversity and resilience and create a living shore.
-  **Stormwater Management:** Offering practical tips and techniques to manage stormwater runoff responsibly.
-  **Bioengineering:** Introducing sustainable and nature-based solutions to shoreline stabilization.
-  **General Shoreland Stewardship:** Equipping property owners with information and resources to become proactive stewards of Lake Charlevoix.

At the Lake Charlevoix Association (LCA), we are deeply committed to preserving the beauty and health of our beloved lake. With this program, we aim to inspire and empower all our riparian property owners to become passionate stewards of Lake Charlevoix. Each of us can do something on our shoreland to better protect the lake. Together, we can make a significant difference in safeguarding Lake Charlevoix for generations to come!

Our **Shore Smart** program will focus on native plant shoreland greenbelts. These living shores are important to Lake Charlevoix for several reasons:

- *Erosion Control:* The root systems of native plants help stabilize the soil, reducing erosion and the sedimentation of the lake. This also helps to prevent the loss of valuable land and infrastructure along the shoreline.
- *Water Quality:* Native plants filter out pollutants and excess nutrients from runoff before they enter the lake, helping to maintain the water quality. This can also reduce the growth

of harmful algae and other aquatic plants, which can harm fish populations and limit recreational activities.

- *Biodiversity:* Native plant gardens provide habitat for a variety of wildlife, including birds, insects, and small mammals. This helps to maintain a healthy ecosystem and supports the overall biodiversity of the lake.
- *Aesthetics:* A shoreline greenbelt garden can enhance the beauty and natural character of the lake. Native plants offer a unique aesthetic that is in harmony with the surrounding environment, providing an attractive and peaceful place for people to enjoy.

Overall, native plant shoreland greenbelt plays a crucial role in the health and well-being of Lake Charlevoix, providing a range of ecological, aesthetic, and recreational benefits.

For at least the first several months of the program, this service will be without cost to property owners, while we explore the efficacy of the program.

The success of this program hinges on each and every one of us. By participating in the **Shore Smart** program, you play a crucial role in preserving the beauty and ecological balance of our lake.

Join us in this exciting journey towards a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable Lake Charlevoix. Let's take action and protect what we hold dear!

For more information or to schedule your FREE site visit, reach out to us via redtwigenvironmental@gmail.com

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