

Shoreline Erosion

What you can do to prevent it

Erosion along shorelines can be caused by natural events (wind, water, and ice) or human activities. Although, human disturbances cause more rapid and far worse impacts to shorelines than natural events. According to a University of Michigan study, we cause 10 times more soil erosion than all natural processes combined. The removal of shoreline vegetation, heavy foot traffic, boat wakes, and construction are examples of human activities that cause erosion. Erosion can reduce water quality (increased turbidity and nutrients), cause algal blooms and fish kills, and if severe enough can cause large land loss.



Things You Can do to Prevent Erosion:

⇒ **Protect the Shoreline with a Buffer**

Plant roots (especially native plants) anchor and stabilize the soil, reduce and slow runoff and reduce wave action energy | Riprap (angular rock) retaining walls prevent erosion by reducing wave energy

⇒ **Reduce Runoff**

Keep paved / hard surfaces (decks and driveways) to a minimum | Use rain barrels and settling areas to reduce runoff coming from driveways and roofs

⇒ **Minimize Boat Wakes**

Slow down when close to shore | Utilize deeper parts of the lake for sporting and high speeds

⇒ **Take Construction Precautions**

Use silt fences, control mats, and hay bales to help control erosion | Cover exposed soil piles with tarps | Disturb as little of an area as possible | Avoid construction during wet months

⇒ **Limit Foot Traffic**

Create a dedicated footpath | Avoid pathways that are in a straight line | Build curved / S-pattern pathways