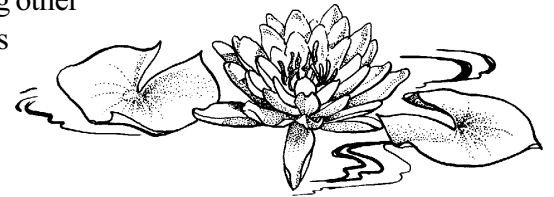


The shoreland zone stretches from the land immediately adjacent to the water's edge to the water extending beyond the shoreline. The health of the shoreland can vary substantially from site to site. A healthy shoreland area consists of a strip of vegetation that effectively provides, among other things, erosion control and wildlife habitat. It often includes 3 layers of plants including trees, shrubs and ground level plants such as ferns, wildflowers, and grasses. A healthy shoreland also has aquatic plants growing out in the water beyond the land. These plants may be below the water level (submergent) or visible above water like lily pads.



Benefits of a healthy shoreland

A healthy shoreline performs several functions which are important to both humans and wildlife. Shoreline vegetation acts to "buffer" the land from wave action and erosion. The same buffering occurs when the vegetation filters the rainwater containing soil and harmful pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers from running off of the land. By acting as a buffer, a healthy shoreline actually helps to improve water quality in the lake or stream.

A healthy shoreline is also home to birds, animals and insects, and fish and aquatic animals in the waters close to the shore area. Without intact and contiguous strips of shoreline vegetation, protective cover, food and nesting areas are lost and wildlife may be displaced.

A healthy shoreline enhances the natural aesthetics of the lake or river. A study in Maine documented that property values along lakelots were higher on lakes with better water quality. Water quality can be directly improved by a healthy shoreline buffer.

Other benefits provided to the community and individuals by a healthy shoreline include:

- ☞ Providing privacy from neighbors and recreational users
- ☞ Screening development to protect scenic vistas
- ☞ Providing an attractive, natural frame for your view of the water
- ☞ Reducing the amount of yard maintenance and waste
- ☞ Diminishing noise from personal watercraft
- ☞ Deterring Canada geese and ducks from lawn areas

Figure 1.

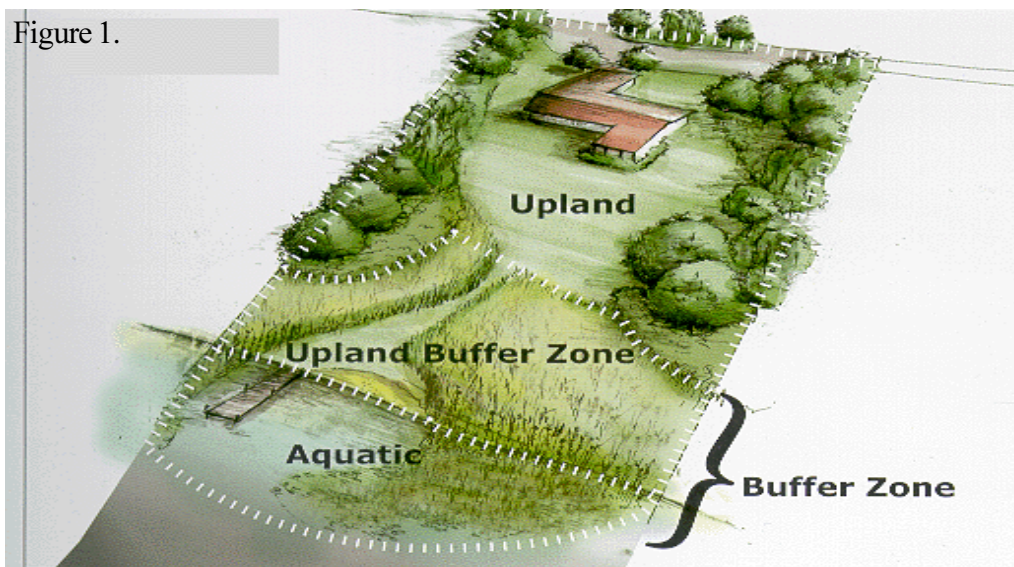


Figure 1 - shows a healthy shoreland buffer zone including upland vegetation and aquatic plants. From "Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality"

First in a series of 3 fact sheets on shorelands and the Winnebago System



For more information contact Michael Koles or Catherine Neiswender: (920) 232-1970

The University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin Counties Cooperating. UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements.



- ☞ Supports an active commercial set-line fishery for catfish
- ☞ The system is within 75 miles of over 2 million people and provides ample recreational uses for boaters, anglers, swimmers, hunters and trappers.
- ☞ Waters are heavily used for industrial and domestic water supply

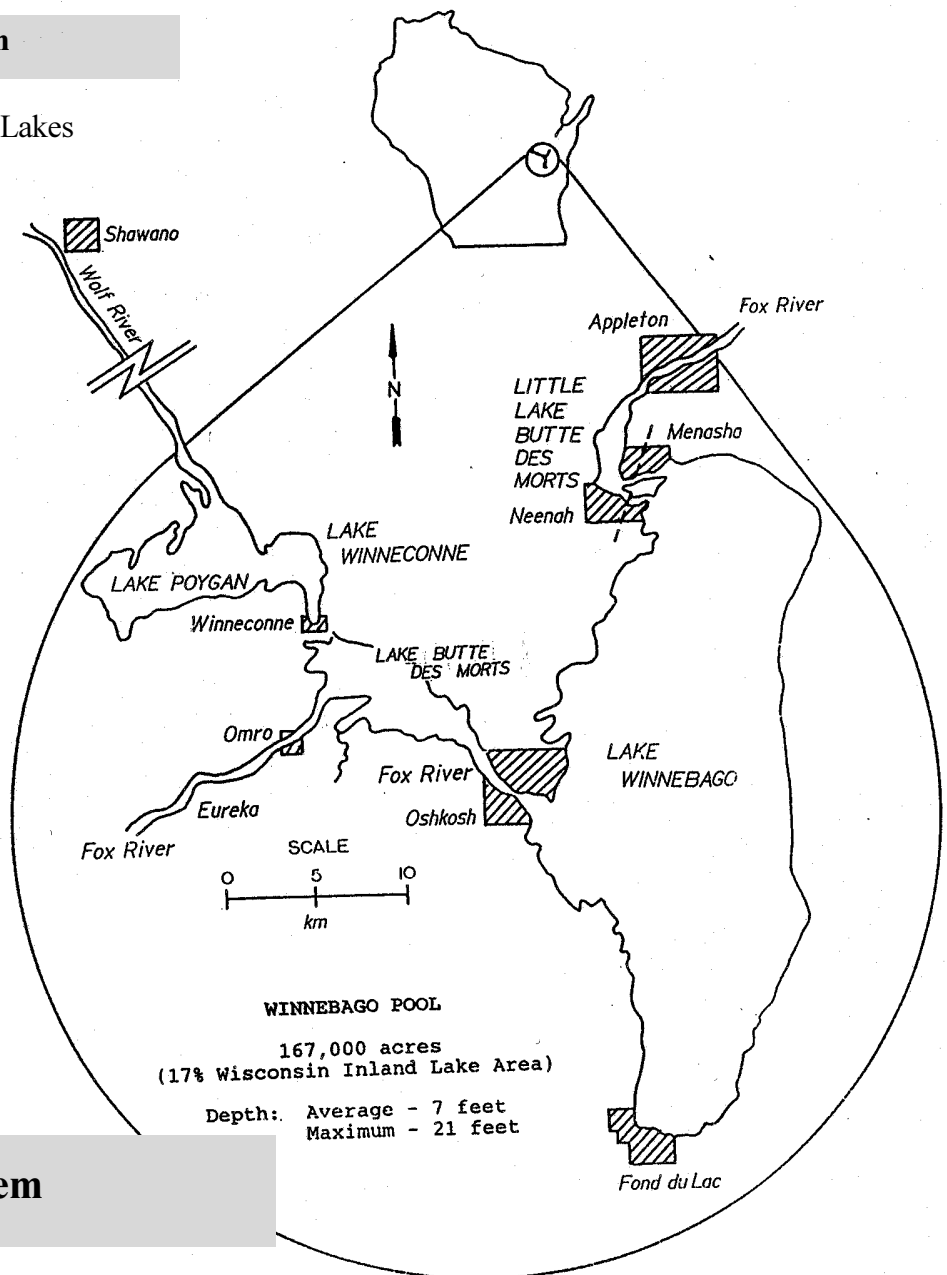
A healthy shoreline and healthy ecosystem contribute greatly to these benefits that Winnebago System residents enjoy.

Benefits for the Lake Winnebago System

The Lake Winnebago System is comprised of Lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne and Poygan, plus their main tributary waters of the Upper Fox and Wolf Rivers. This system is one of Wisconsin's most significant water resources and comprises 7% of the state's surface water acreage.

For the Lake Winnebago System, a healthy and attractive shoreland ecosystem is important not only for a healthy environment, but for the residents as well.

- ☞ Positive economic benefits accrue from the System
- ☞ Shoreland properties contribute significantly to the tax base in the system.
- ☞ Hunting and fishing along the system brings in \$5 million annually to the northeast Wisconsin economy.



The Lake Winnebago System