

Section G.
Shoreland Best
Management Practices

Clearwater Lake Best Management Practices for Shoreland

Clearwater Lake has some specific natural features that influence the water quality and shoreland of the lake. Its surrounding landscape has many steep slopes, whose bases are susceptible to erosion and slumping due to the inundation that comes with the impoundment of water that forms the lake. Its flow-through stream has a relatively young geologic history that has left its slope subject to aggressive natural down-cutting and erosion that increases sedimentation into the impounded lake. With this natural susceptibility, it is important that each shoreland owner do all that is possible to protect their individual shoreland from erosion and take all reasonable measures to prevent further degradation of the water quality of the lake.

In addition, Clearwater Lake shares common concerns with other lakes in Minnesota that come with the development of the shoreland for buildings, roads, and septic systems. Much work has been done in Minnesota to identify these types of problems and develop practices to prevent damage to lakes. A series of best practices to protect shoreland has been developed, which can greatly reduce the detrimental effects of all these influences on water quality. General checklists and fact sheets are available from a number of sources to describe measures that can be taken. These have been included here to encourage their long-range implementation by each and every landowner around the Clearwater Lake.

It is recognized that it takes time to become aware of these issues, to learn the means and practices for dealing with them, and to develop the resources necessary to put them in place. In the future, new local initiatives by this Lake Association can encourage the implementation of Best Management Practices for Shoreland.

The material and references offered here provide a starting point for each landowner to become self-aware of specific problems that may be occurring on their land and what actions they can take to improve their shoreland. In addition, other specific technical assistance will be available through the local and regional resources identified in this Lake Management Plan, the Clearwater County Water Management Plan, and the Red Lake Watershed District Plan. This technical assistance can help identify and apply best management practices for individual properties on the shoreland on Clearwater Lake.

We encourage you to review this material, to go through the checklist provided in Leaflet Number 17, and then take action by implementing the practices that apply to your land or contacting agencies such as the Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District and the Clearwater County Environmental Services Office in Bagley, the Red Lake Watershed District in Thief River Falls, or the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in Bemidji for assistance in reviewing the checklist and developing appropriate resources to put practices in place.