

Shoreline Restoration

Some 400 plants and 30 shrubs were planted May 16, 2007, along the channel between Mirror Lake and Shadow Lake in the city of Waupaca in a shoreline restoration project. Adult volunteers from the Friends of Shadow and Mirror Lakes were assisted in the actual planting by Mr. Kempfert's eighth grade students from Waupaca Middle School on a community service workday. The project is intended to be a demonstration for the community on how shorelines can be allowed to grow naturally and remain attractive instead of having a swath of closely mowed grass all the way to the water's edge.



Besides requiring limited maintenance, a 30-foot strip of natural vegetation helps to improve water quality in the lake by collecting surface runoff water from roads and other impervious surfaces, and filtering out pollutants like oil, road salt and pesticides before they reach the lake. In addition,

natural vegetation reduces erosion, shades and cools the water, provides valuable habitat for wildlife, and even discourages nuisance geese, which tend to avoid tall grass and other areas that might hide predators.

Waupaca Park & Recreation workers sprayed herbicide to kill the grass and weeds prior to the planting. A burn in April also inhibited the growth of vegetation that would have competed with the new plantings. City mowing crews have tried to leave a strip unmowed at the site for about two years

A variety of native plants were planted: Highbush Cranberry, Red Osier Dogwood, New England Aster, Milkweed, Great Blue Lobelia, Red Cardinal Flower, Prairie Dock, Wild Iris, Cordgrass, Big Bluestem, Switch Grass, Fox Sedge and others.

Mulch was also placed in the planting area to discourage the growth of unwanted vegetation. To help keep deer from eating the succulent young plants, a repellent was sprayed on rags and tied to stakes by Department of Parks and Recreation workers.

Lakeside homeowners can simply let a buffer strip grow wild, as in the area north of the demonstration area, or they can adapt the plan in the demonstration area for their own yards. Information and assistance is available from the Waupaca County Land and Water Conservation Office.



Wild Iris



Students at work on the shoreline restoration project.



To learn more about Friends of Waupaca Mirror/Shadow Lakes contact Sandy Testin at:
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