A Botanist's Perspective on Selecting the Right Plants

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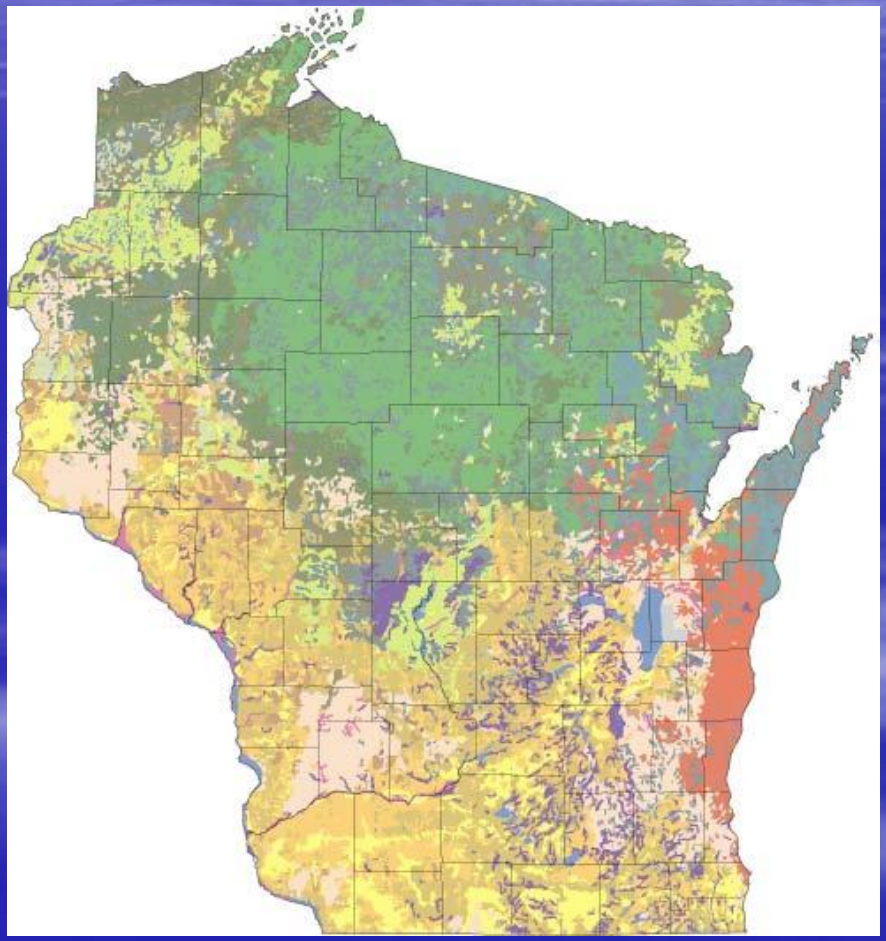
Shoreland Revegetation

- Select the right plant
- For the right place
- For the right reason

Select the right plant...

- For your ecological zone (ask about genetic origin)
- For the plant community (consider plant groupings that include multiple “layers” that naturally work well together



- For the successional stage (you may need to plant in phases)
- For particular plant attribute(s)

Photo: Bill Bartodziej – Natural Shores, Inc.

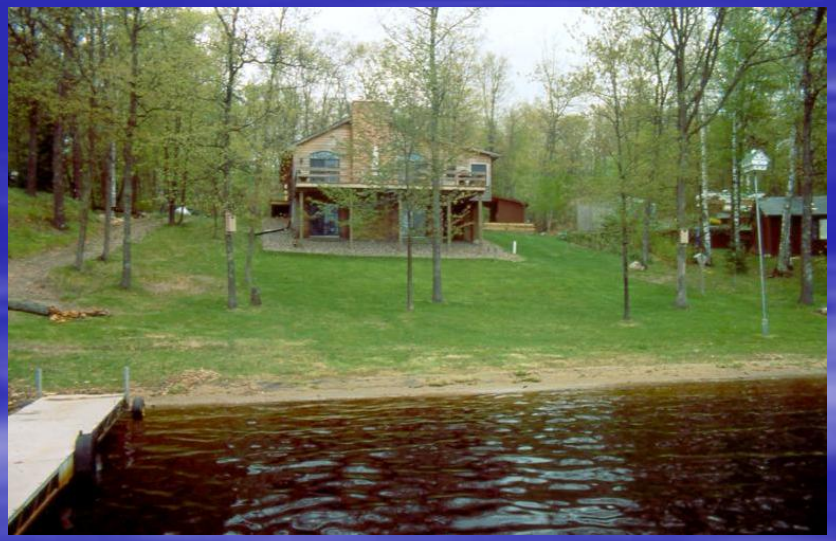
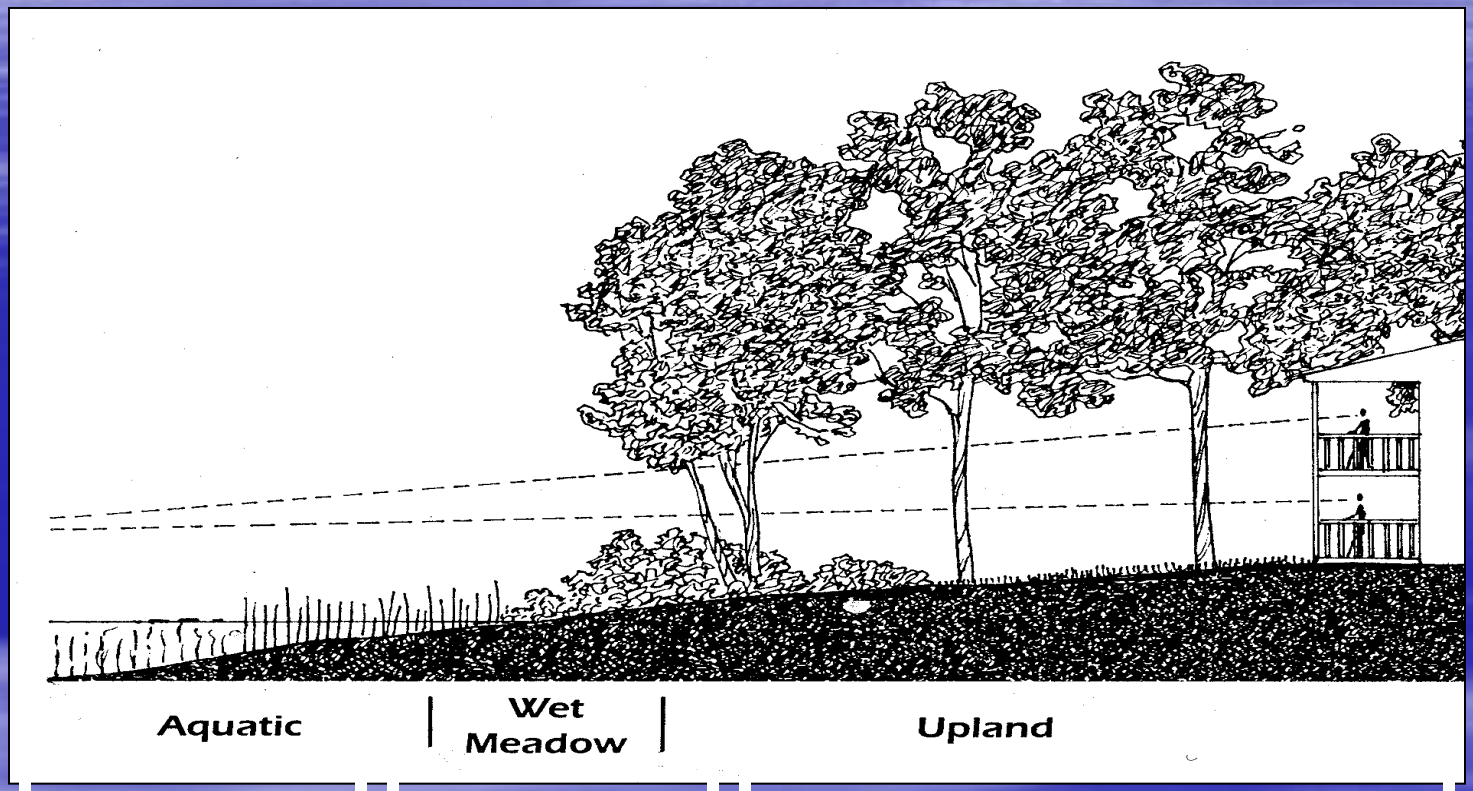


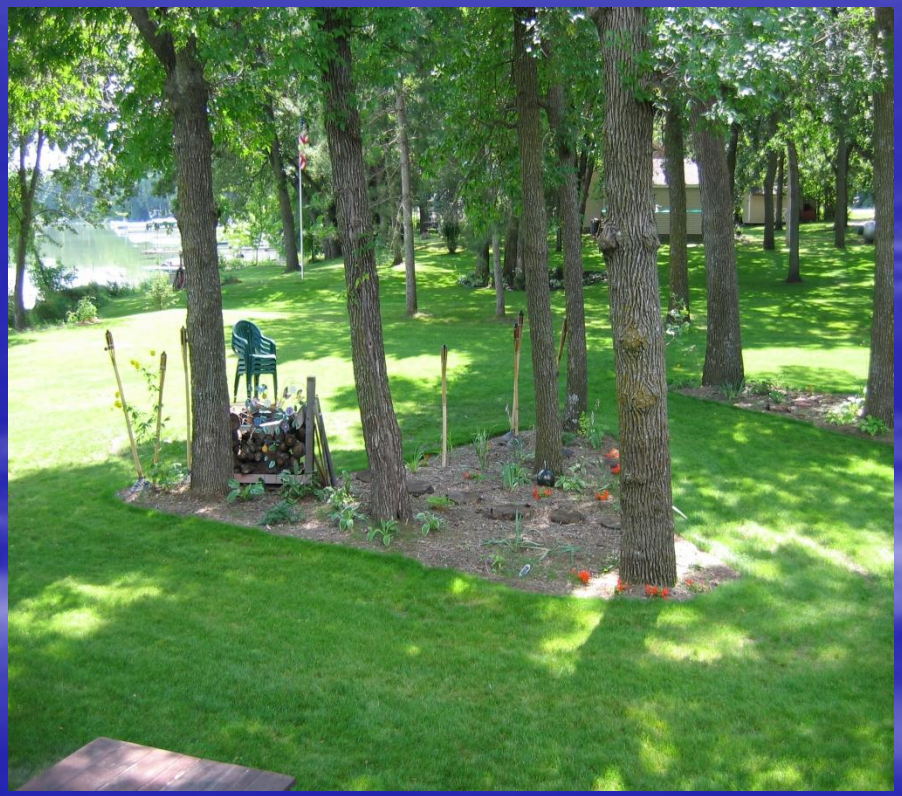
Photo: Jean Pitt

For the right place...



Always under water	Seasonally flooded; “Wet feet”	Never/rarely flooded; “Dry feet”

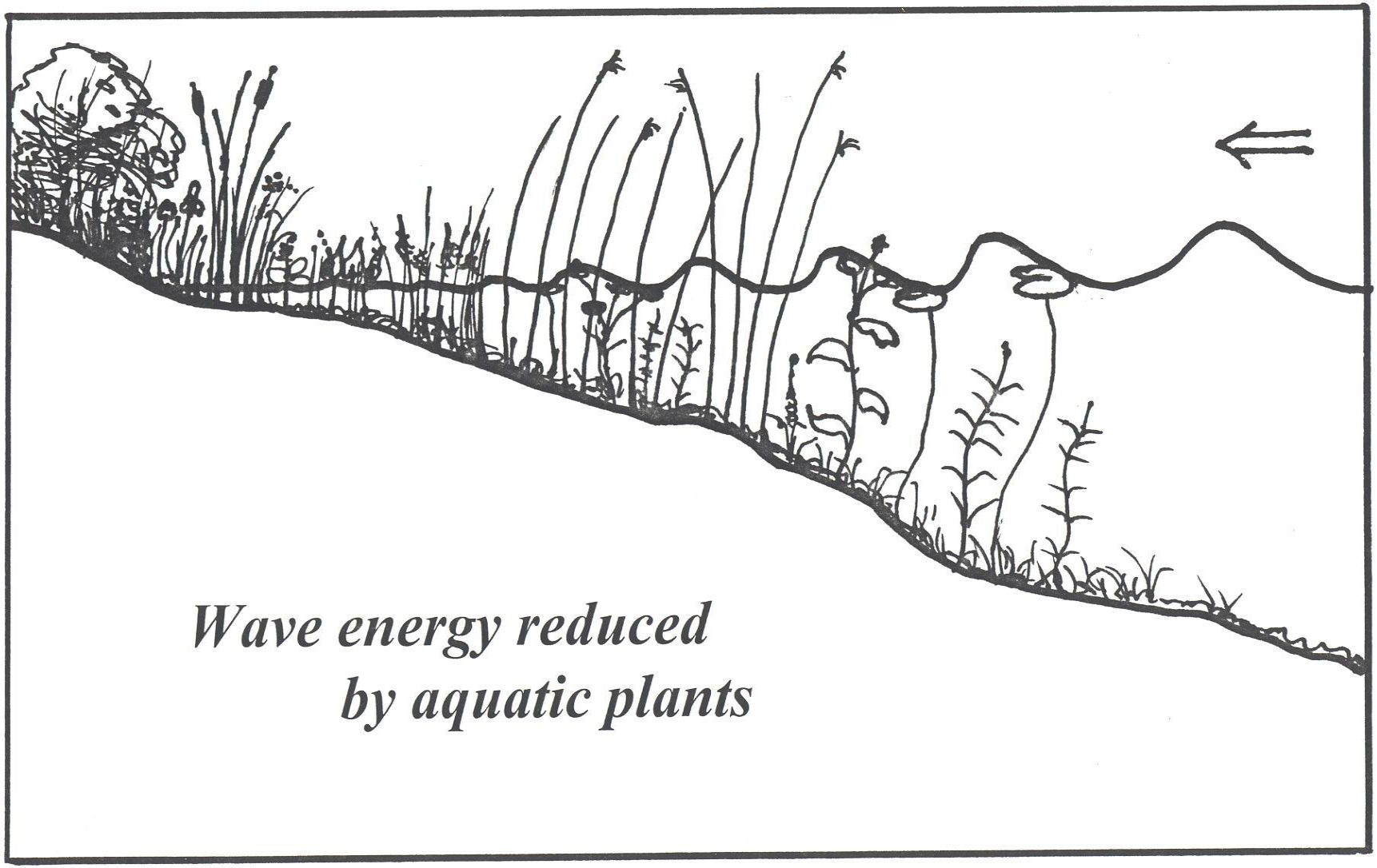
- Soil texture (sand, silt, clay, organic)
- Sun/wind exposure
- Site challenges

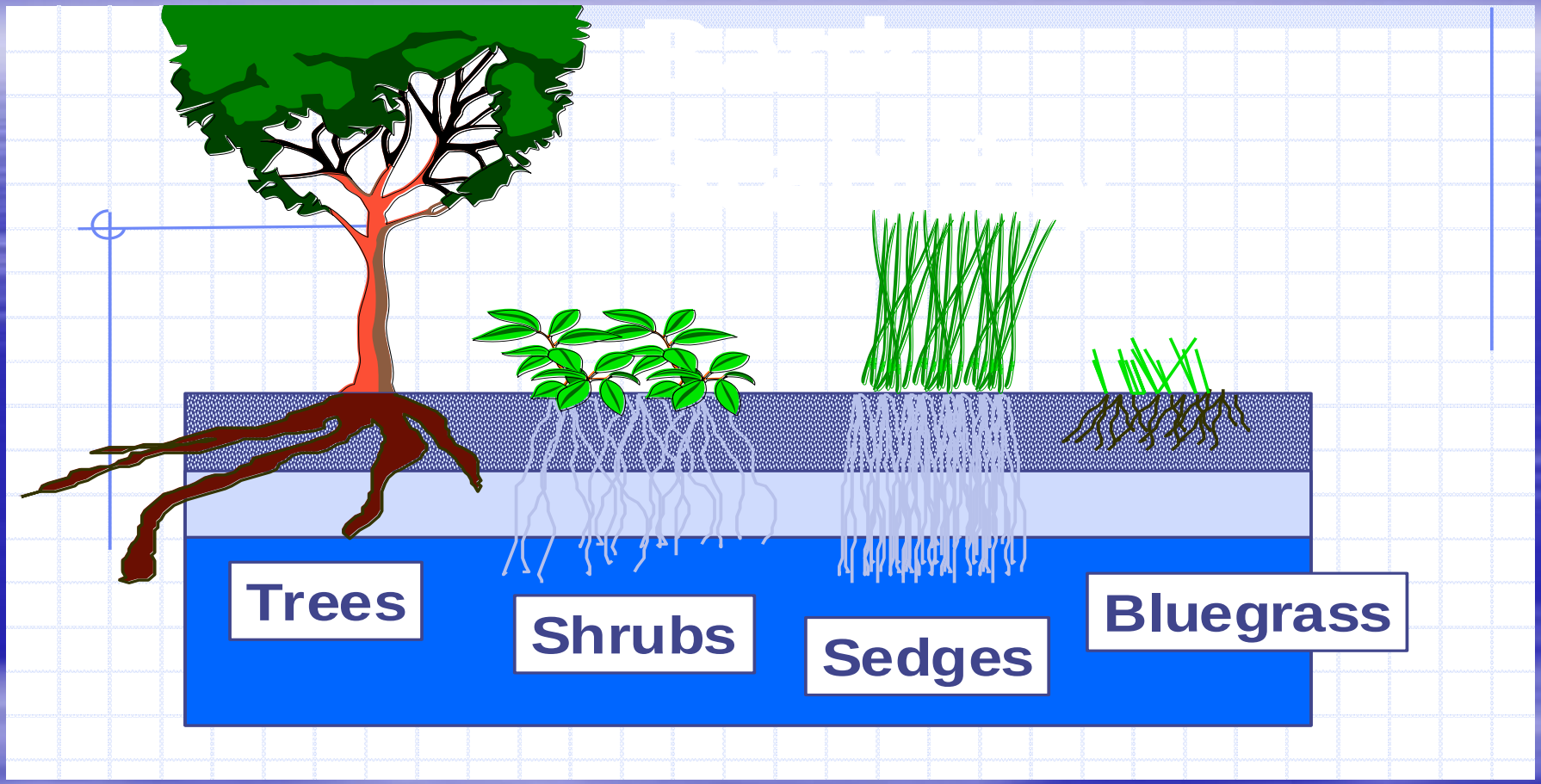


For the right reason(s)...

Note: sometimes the right plants are already in the right place for the right reason...just quit mowing!

1. Erosion control

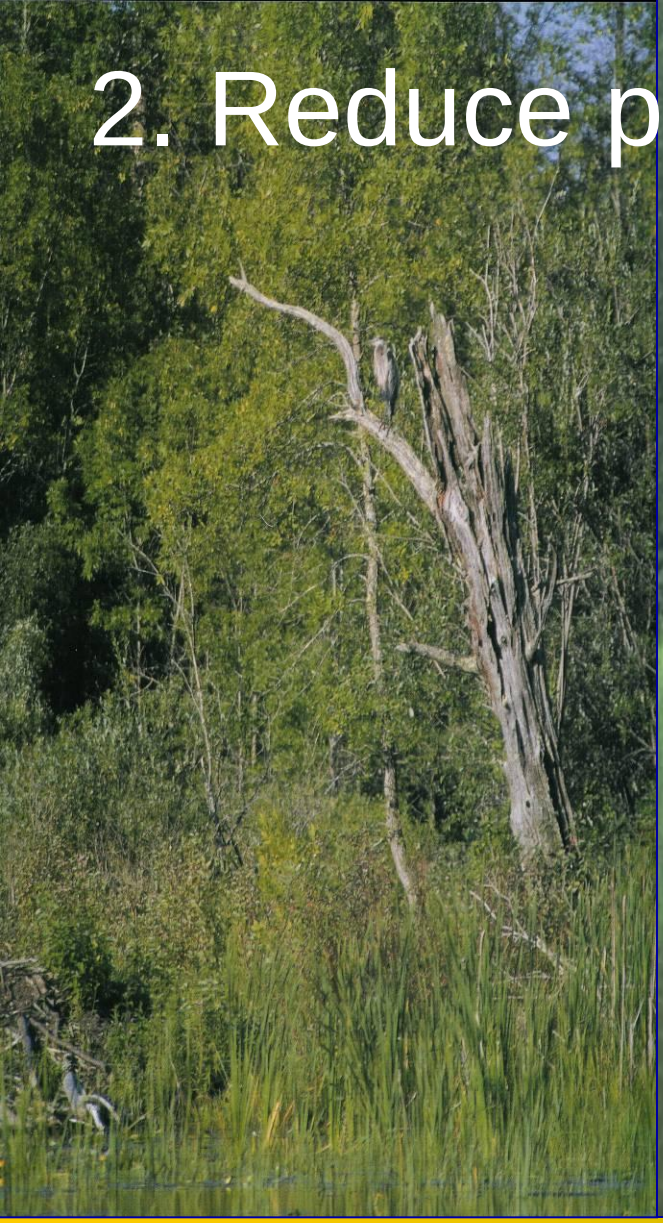

Wave energy reduced
by aquatic plants



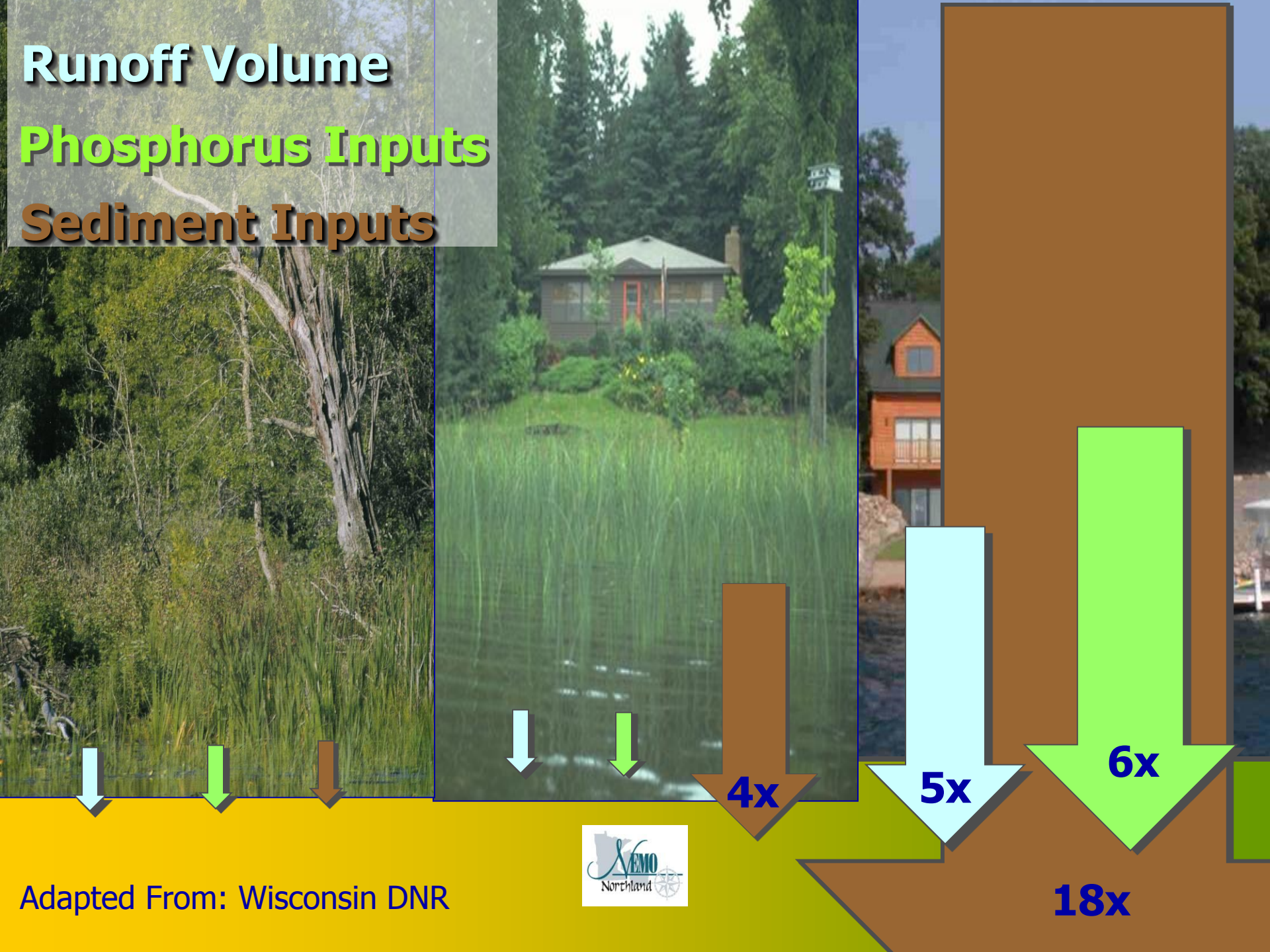
Deep, dense rooted native plants resist wave and ice erosion

C = aquatic plants removed, wetland and upland plants replaced with lawn
N = native plants not disturbed

2. Reduce pollutants entering the lake



Adapted From: Wisconsin DNR



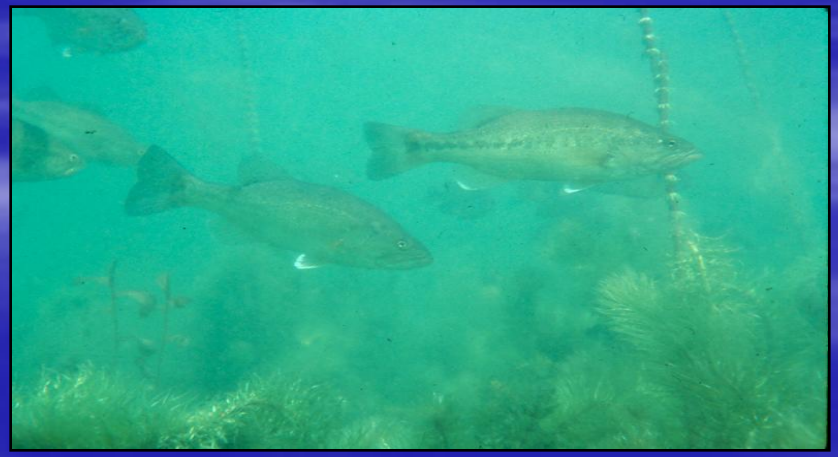
Adapted From: Wisconsin DNR

*"…a native grass strip **just 10 feet wide** captures **60%** of the sediment.*

*A **20-foot strip** retains **80%** of the sediment."* ***(Seker 1999)***

*"For **water quality** protection … most recommendations for minimum buffer widths range from **50 feet to 100 feet**."* (Wenger 1999)

3. Wildlife habitat…



"Protection of diverse terrestrial riparian ***wildlife communities*** *requires some buffers of* ***at least 300 feet****."*

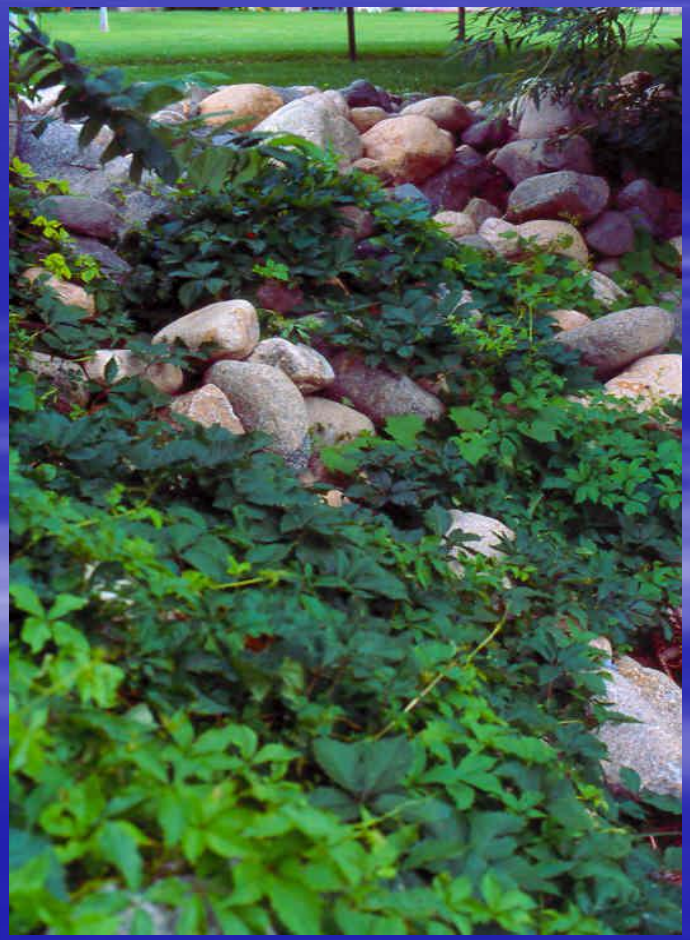
(Wenger 1999)

4. Control shoreline access

…especially for geese!

5. Privacy screen

6. “Soften” rock rip rap



7. Beauty

8. Enjoyment!