

Lake Ada neighbors - do you have :



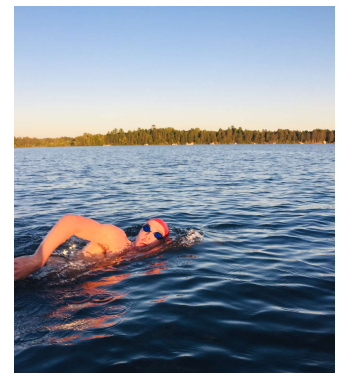
Shoreline collapsing or eroding?



Erosion elsewhere on the property?



Water from the road or your land running into the lake?



A desire to keep Lake Ada clean and beautiful for generations to come?

Your **Lake Association** is here to help with the **Ada Lake-Friendly Shoreline Program!**

We are now partnering with the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District (the Cass County SWCD). They have wonderful resources to offer us:



Matching funds may be available to reimburse you for 50% of the cost of approved projects that will improve the value, beauty and enjoyment of your property, as well as our water quality. These include solutions like rain gardens, shoreline reinforcement and planting, and native trees and plants to strengthen and beautify the shoreline (not rock/rip rap or mowed grass shorelines).



A SWCD specialist is available July 1 to come to your property at no charge to provide advice and direction to help you get started on a project to meet your specific needs. **There is no charge for a site visit and it will take about 30 minutes.** Once you have a specific plan (and a contractor if needed), they'll review it for approval of match funding.



Cass County SWCD can advise which potential solutions may require county permitting or (for aquatic planting) DNR permitting. Many solutions do not require permitting.

Site visits are available on Monday, July 1, 2024 between 9:30-3:30. To schedule a visit, email sarah.vanbeck@gmail.com with your name, lake address, best phone number and time preference on July 1. We try to schedule a full day of Lake Ada visits for efficiency, but if that doesn't work for you, Sarah will help find another date for your site visit. We've had 12 site visits so far, and several projects completed or planned. Learn what can improve your shoreline at no cost, with funding for approved projects available!

The Cass County SWCD makes cost-sharing dollars available to Cass County landowners for a variety of conservation projects including Shoreland/Pollinator habitat improvement, Stormwater/Erosion control and Private Forest Management Plans. Eligible practices must meet technical specifications and be maintained by the landowner for a minimum effective life of 10 years. Applications must have SWCD board approval before the project can start.

Some resources to help you start envisioning a more stable, beautiful and lake-friendly shoreline!

Aquatic vegetation, woody debris (downed trees in and near lake) or a shoreline buffer of native plants are the best ways to protect a shoreline from wave and ice erosion, provide homes for fish and wildlife, beautify your lake home and reduce lawn care time.



Start with the DNR and Itasca Waters sites for great info, short videos, links and tips for a more lake-friendly shoreline:

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/shoreland/property-owners.html

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rys/index.html>

<https://www.itascawaters.org>

Look for areas of your property that may be trouble spots:

- a. Traffic patterns (walkways) and recreation/ play areas
- b. Erosion – look for areas that wash to the lake after a rain
- c. Absence of plants, trees and shrubs along the shoreline (manicured lawns contribute to runoff, and worse if treated with fertilizer or weed killers – please avoid using them)
- d. Impervious surfaces (decks, sidewalks, patios, swimming pools, driveways or other similar surfaces, which under Minn state shoreland rules are limited to 25% of the lot area)
- e. Fire pits should be located as far from the lake as possible and ash should be collected and disposed (ash is high in phosphorus which promotes algae growth)

Learn more about native plants

Native plants have deeper roots, making them more drought resistant and better at holding the shoreline than lawngrass. Did you know a shoreline mowed to the water's edge can erode away as much as 5 feet in 10 years? Learn more about native plants and how to develop a planting plan:

- https://crowwing.us/DocumentCenter/View/682/Native_Plant_List_short?bidid=crowwing.us
- <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rys/st/plantingplan.html>
- <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/suppliers.html>
- <https://bluethumb.org/shoreline-stabilization>

Learn more about rain gardens

Rain gardens reduce mosquito breeding by absorbing excess water, and filter water to keep salt and silt out of the lake. And they are much more beautiful than a slimy puddle! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdnCIM-bBMk>