

SHORELINE VEGETATIVE BUFFERS

Shoreline buffers refer to forested or vegetated strips of land that border water bodies. Vegetated shoreline buffers are an important feature of ponds and lakes that provide and enhance many functions essential to establishing and maintaining a healthy system. Vegetation composition of the shoreline buffer is also important. While it is common to see many ponds and lakes with turf grass edges, these buffers have limited benefits and often contribute pollutants to the water if they are managed with fertilizers and pesticides/herbicides.

If you live next to a pond or wetland the City encourages you to maintain a vegetative buffer strip. In fact, for developments that were created after 2000, there is an ordinance that requires buffer strips to be preserved adjacent to wetlands and the City prohibits deposition of yard debris in stormwater pond buffer areas. For more information on shoreline buffers visit:

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/shoreline_alterations_lakescaping.pdf

Example of a poor and good vegetative buffer.



Which do you think provides better water quality?