

## Tips to Prevent Soil Erosion

If you live along a creek, stream, shoreline, or wetland, you are a “riparian property owner”. Sedimentation caused from erosion is the main source of pollution among Michigan’s lakes and streams. Follow these simple steps to prevent erosion on your waterfront property:

- Create a fertilizer-free vegetative buffer (strip of land adjacent to a water body) – at least 10 feet if possible. Designate a no-mow area, with turf or native plants and flowers. Buffers help stabilize stream banks, reduce erosion, and filter pollutants.
- Your entire lawn should be mowed high (2 ½ to 3 inches). Tall grass promotes root growth and shades out weeds. Ask your lawn care provider to mow your grass high.
- Regrade or use stones or landscape timbers along the slope of the stream bank. A contractor may need to be hired, depending on your site.
- Leave logjams in place to slow river flow, reduce erosion, and preserve and maintain existing habitat.
- Educate yourself. By understanding how water erodes banks and how logs and plantings can solve problems, you can apply concepts to improve and enhance your waterfront property.
- NEVER dump yard waste and other materials into the stream channel.

