

Welcome

Michigan Shoreland Stewards Ambassadors!



Section 1

Part 3: *MiSS for Ambassadors*





Training volunteers to take the next step as a Shoreland Steward to protect and preserve the health of their lake.

To complete the Ambassador Training:

- ✓ Part 1: Introduction
- ✓ Part 2: What does an Ambassador do?
- Part 3: MiSS for Ambassadors.**
- Part 4: The Social Stuff.
- Part 5: Ambassadors In Action.



Key Element: *Understanding the Shoreland Stewards Program*

Ambassadors should know the basics about the following to be able to assist others with the MiSS Program.

- What the program does.
- The different stewardship levels.
- How to access the survey.
- Benefits of registering for an account.
- The different components of the survey.
- How to purchase a sign.



What does MiSS do?

1. Recognizes inland lake property owners for using best management practices.
2. Encourages the use of natural landscaping techniques and erosion control.
3. Provides educational resources to help manage a property for a healthy lake.

**MiSS offers a free online survey
for lakefront property owners to
assess their property**



The MiSS Program has Three Recognition Levels

BRONZE

SILVER

GOLD



Starter

Gold Level

The “Starter” level is for properties that have work to do before their properties can qualify. Note: Some properties just won’t be able to qualify.

See the
MiSS Program Guide
pages 9 and 10

Three Recognition Levels

Question:

Why are there three different levels? We would rather just have one.

While some lake groups would prefer just one recognition level, the MiSS Program chose three because:

- 1) A Gold and Bronze Level Property look way different.
- 2) Practicality of the variability of property sizes and development which allows more owners to participate.



Three Recognition Levels

The Gold Level is the “Ideal” lake front property. It isn’t practical or feasible for every property to be the “Ideal”. So, the Silver and Bronze levels offer the opportunity for smaller properties a way to participate. The way the survey was created allows for a lot of variability and is not extremely prescriptive. Though not every property will be able to qualify for any of the three levels.

*Protect what is there and restore where we can!
Not everyone can do everything but everyone can do something.*

Survey: *What level are you?*

Gold: *Most natural conditions*

Envision a house that is set back far enough from the lake and has enough vegetation that it may be difficult to see from the lake. The access areas are limited. No seawalls at this level!

The percentage of impervious surface and building footprint is small compared to the size of the lot.



Photo: Howard Wandell

Survey: *What level are you?*

Silver:

Envision a property that still has quite a bit of natural vegetation, limited impervious surfaces and doesn't have a seawall.

There may be some lawn, but it is modest by comparison to Bronze Level. Properties will vary widely. Use your best judgement and encourage others to do the same when answering the survey.



Survey: *What level are you?*

Bronze:

Envision a property that might have some lawn and natural vegetation. The house will probably be seen from the lake. There may be more impervious surfaces or a small beach but are minimized where possible. Again, there will be a lot of variability. These properties could potentially have a seawall of some sort.



Photo: Sally Swanson

While it is difficult for a property with a seawall to qualify, if other practices are in place and the property isn't too small and/or overbuilt it could receive a Bronze level.

Survey: *Starter*

Each property is different and some may not qualify initially for recognition. However, many properties do have the potential to qualify if management practices are improved.

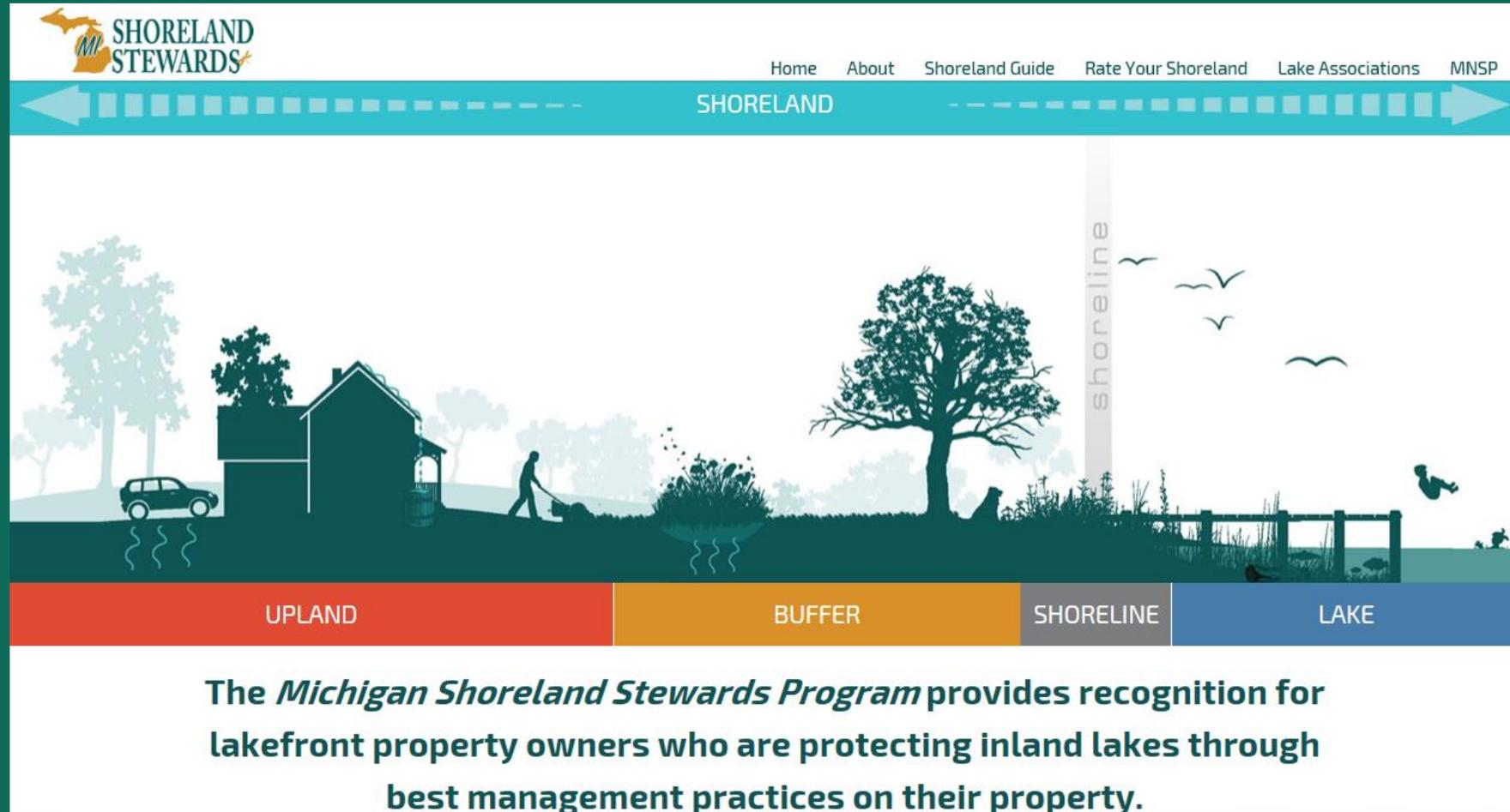


Photo: Reese Scripture

Note: see upcoming slides for some ideas on which improvements will have the most impact.

Accessing the Survey: *MI Shoreland Stewards website*

- Know the web address.
- Review the homepage to know how to direct people.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program. At the top left is the logo, which includes a map of Michigan and the text "SHORELAND STEWARDS". To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "About", "Shoreland Guide", "Rate Your Shoreland", "Lake Associations", and "MNSP". Below the navigation menu is a teal banner with the word "SHORELAND" in white, flanked by dashed lines and arrows. The main visual is a silhouette illustration of a landscape. On the left, a house and a car are shown. In the center, a person is mowing a lawn. On the right, there is a large tree, a dog, a fence, and a person jumping. A vertical line labeled "shoreline" separates the land from a lake on the right. Below the illustration is a horizontal bar with four colored segments: red for "UPLAND", orange for "BUFFER", grey for "SHORELINE", and blue for "LAKE". At the bottom of the page, a white box contains the following text: "The *Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program* provides recognition for lakefront property owners who are protecting inland lakes through best management practices on their property."

Survey: Individual Registration

Participants can take survey either:

OR

Get more information by registering!

Take the Survey Anonymously

Just want to see what the survey looks like? Your survey will not be saved and a certificate will not be generated unless you register and save. You can register and save your survey at any time. We want you to register as it helps us know more about your lake.

Start Anonymously

Register for an Account

Registering allows you to return to your survey information at any time, receive a certificate, print your information and more! Please read our [Privacy Statement](#) for more information.

Start Registration

Log In

If you already have an account and would like to return to your survey,

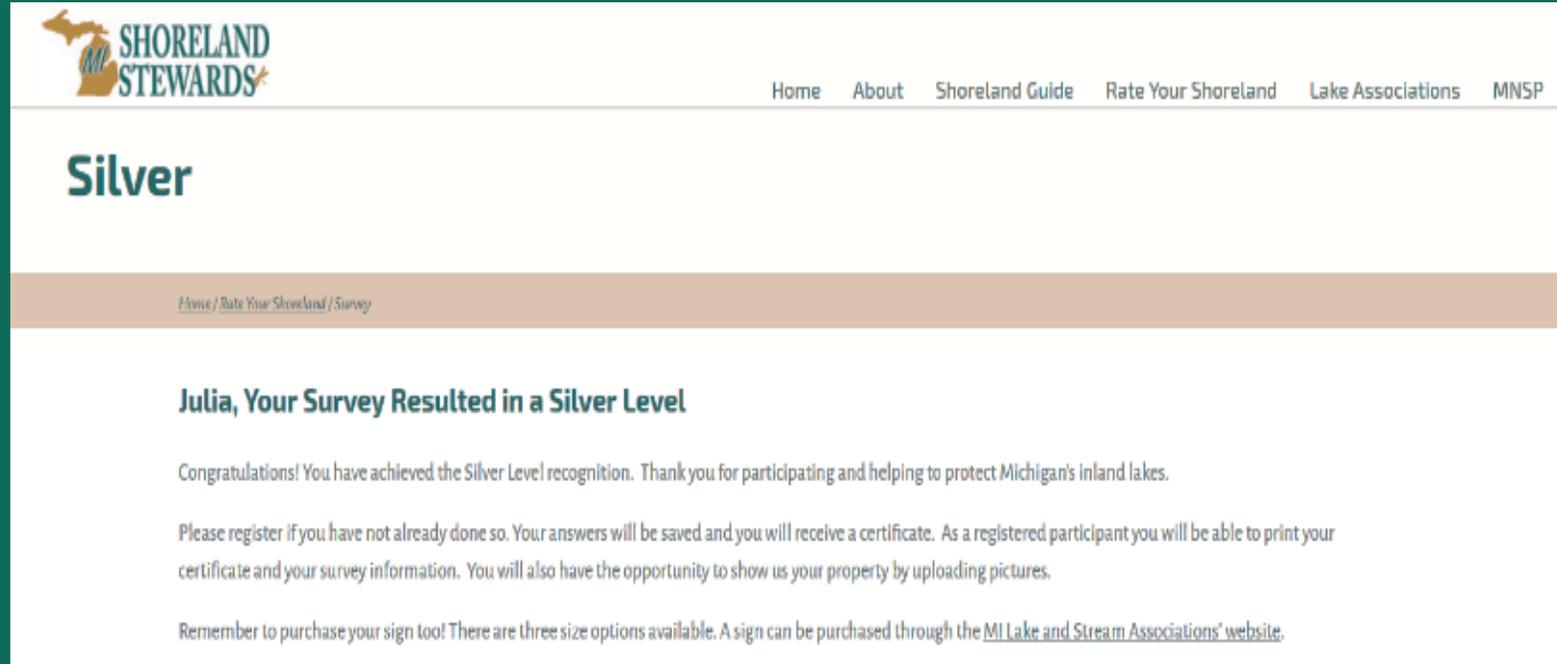
Log In

➤ *Participants may register at any time during the survey*

➤ *Survey information is saved only for registered participants*

Survey: Result

1. The end of the survey will show the level – Gold, Silver, Bronze or Starter.
2. Participants will NOT see a numerical score. The survey was designed this way to allow for flexibility and to keep the length/time to fill it out reasonable.



The screenshot shows the 'SHORELAND STEWARDS' logo in the top left corner. A navigation menu in the top right includes links for 'Home', 'About', 'Shoreland Guide', 'Rate Your Shoreland', 'Lake Associations', and 'MNSP'. Below the navigation, the word 'Silver' is prominently displayed in a large, bold font. A breadcrumb trail reads 'Home / Rate Your Shoreland / Survey'. The main content area features a heading: 'Julia, Your Survey Resulted in a Silver Level'. Below this, there are three paragraphs of text: 'Congratulations! You have achieved the Silver Level recognition. Thank you for participating and helping to protect Michigan's inland lakes.', 'Please register if you have not already done so. Your answers will be saved and you will receive a certificate. As a registered participant you will be able to print your certificate and your survey information. You will also have the opportunity to show us your property by uploading pictures.', and 'Remember to purchase your sign too! There are three size options available. A sign can be purchased through the [MI Lake and Stream Associations' website](#).'

End of Survey Information

Silver

[Home](#) / [Rate Your Shoreland](#) / Survey

Julia, Your Survey Resulted in a Silver Level

Congratulations! You have achieved the Silver Level recognition. Thank you for participating and helping to protect Michigan's inland lakes.

Please register if you have not already done so. Your answers will be saved and you will receive a certificate. As a registered participant you will be able to print your certificate and your survey information. You will also have the opportunity to show us your property by uploading pictures.

Remember to purchase your sign too! There are three size options available. A sign can be purchased through the [MI Lake and Stream Associations' website](#).

Review Your Answers

Review answers

Areas for Improvement

High percentage of impervious surface

Upland Zone Vegetation 50-74%

Buffer Vegetation 49% - 25%

No variety of native plants in the buffer

No erosion control structures and no erosion

Areas for Improvement

Things to Do

Print Your Certificate

Print This Report

Edit Your Profile

Print Certificate and Report

Encourage people to register for an account! These options are only available for people who register.

- Clicking on “Review Your Answers” will show all the answers. You are able to go back to each question to access the “Other” information provided. People CANNOT change their answers.

See the
MiSS Program Guide
page 12

 [Print This Report](#)

 [Edit Your Profile](#)

Have you made changes?

 [Take the Survey Again](#)

Did you make an error?

 [Start the Survey Over](#)

Upload Pictures

We would love to see pictures of your shoreland! Please upload some below.

Drop JPEG or PNG Files Here or Click to Upload

Take the Survey
Again After
Changes

Upload Pictures

See the
MiSS Program Guide
page 13

Encourage people to make changes and take the survey again and share their pictures. Especially if they have before and after pictures.

Pictures are not required but encouraged because we need more example pictures to help inspire other people to make changes!

Question Weighting

See Ambassador
Toolkit pages 23 - 33

1. Heaviest weighting on ones with most (+ or -) impact on the overall health of the lake.
2. Questions are color coded in Toolkit (not on the survey)
3. Use this information to help people prioritize where to make improvements based on their "Recommendations for Improvement" (only available to people who register)

Do you ever apply fertilizer on your Upland Zone lawn?

Are you using only phosphorus free fertilizers?

Estimate the percentage of your Upland Zone that contains buildings, patios, driveways, parking areas, or other impervious surfaces.

Estimate the percentage of the Upland Zone that has trees, shrubs and ground-cover (other than lawn). Do not include buildings, driveways etc in this estimation.

Survey: *Starter*

What improvements could this property make?

Overall this property has some really good things about it. It has the potential to eventually qualify at the Gold Level. The impervious surfaces are minimal. The house is sitting back from the lake. There are still some trees.



Photo: Reese Scripture

Survey: *Starter*

What improvements could this property make?

Should the shed be moved?

While having a shed this close to the lake isn't recommended it also isn't practical to further back because of the hill. It is also up on bricks which helps minimize its impacts. Keep the shed where it is. If it needs to be replaced keep it the same size.



Photo: Reese Scripture

Survey: *Starter*

What improvements could this property make?

Boats

To help minimize boat storage a bit more a storage rack for the kayak could be added. This action is in the lightest green category for impact on score.



Photo: Reese Scripture

Survey: *Starter*

What improvements could this property make?

Buffer Zone Vegetation:

Adding native plants in the Buffer Zone is a priority for this property. It will have the biggest impact on the score. It will also help with any erosion of the shoreline. There isn't any need to take out the rocks – just add native plants. Possibly a short sedge and blue flag iris at the rock and in front of the boats.



Photo: Reese Scripture

Survey: *Starter* What improvements could this property make?

Upland Zone Vegetation: Adding native plants in the Upland Zone is a priority for this property. It will have the biggest impact on the score. Does it have to obstruct the entire view of the lake? No, there are plenty of shorter native plants that could be used. But a few short flowering trees and/or shrubs would be pretty and add berries for the wildlife.



Photo: Reese Scripture

Survey: *Starter*

What improvements could this property make?

Stormwater Runoff:

Looking at the stormwater runoff from this property would have the “middle impact” on the overall score. The vegetation will reduce most of it but looking at the steps in a rain event could tell more. It may not be an issue at all but maybe some pea gravel or mulch on the steps could help absorb and infiltrate water coming down the steps in a rain event.

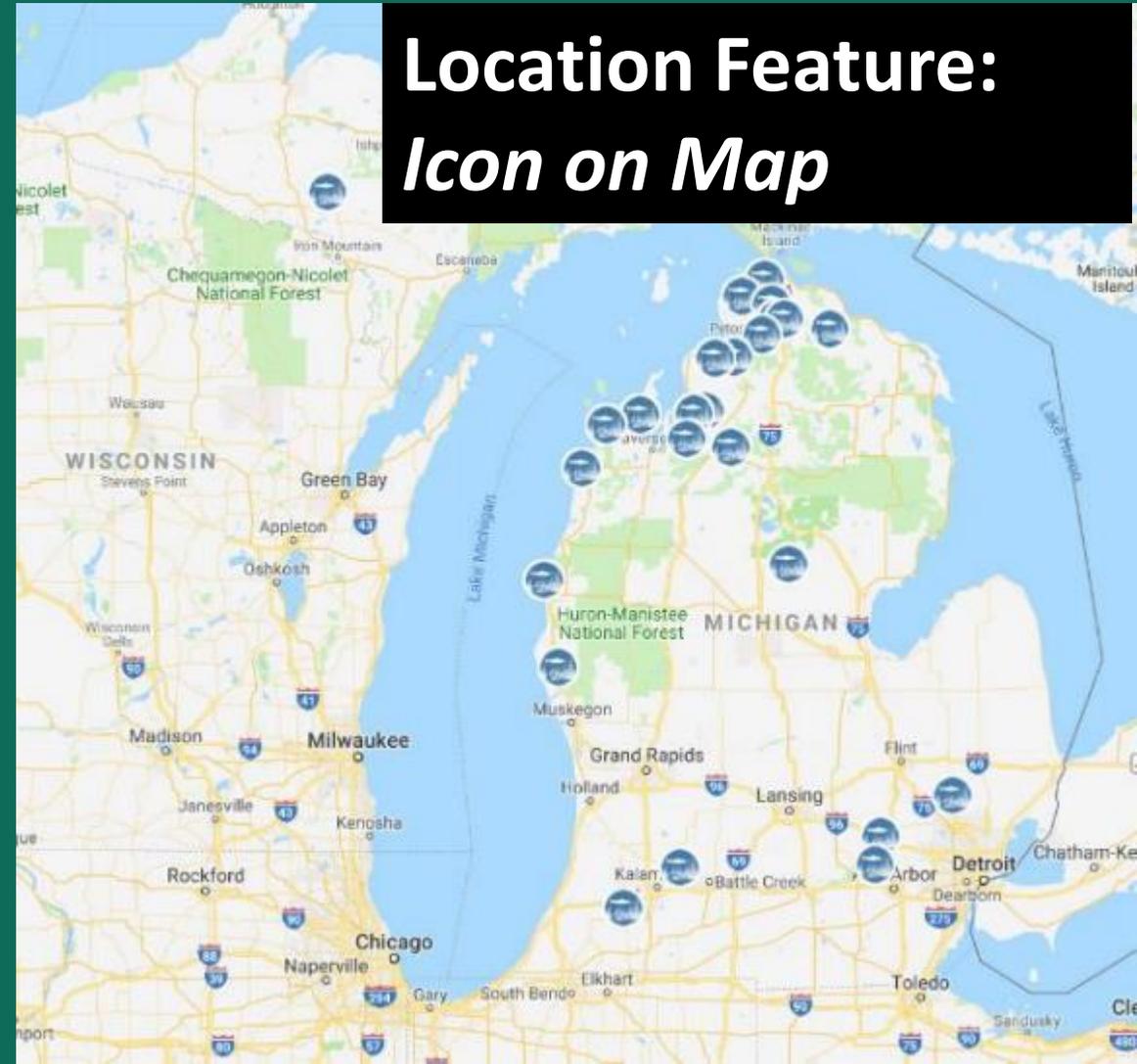


Photo: Reese Scripture

Lake Association Registration Benefits

Advertise your lake group!

- *Get your own page on the MiSS website*
- *Manage your own account*
- *Locator Icon*



**Location Feature:
*Icon on Map***

Lake Association Registration Benefits

Registration Feature:

Your Lake
Type the name of the Lake on which your lake property is located.

Lake Association
Choose the Lake Association for your Lake, if one is available.

- Your lake listed in a drop down box
- Receive an email notification when a property owner completes the survey
- View your lake results

(Registered participants only)

Lake Association Registration Benefits

Access to Resource Materials

- Sample press releases
- Newsletter articles
- Promotional advertisements
- Sign files to add your own logo

We want to recognize YOU
for protecting Michigan's inland lakes.

SHORELAND STEWARD
Protecting Michigan's Inland Lakes

The MI Shoreland Stewards program is a statewide recognition program developed by the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership to recognize lakeshore property owners who protect their lake through good shoreland management practices.

Learn more at:
www.mishorelandstewards.org

Survey: *The Questions*

- 38 survey questions.
- Each has its own page

More information
about each topic



The screenshot shows the 'Upland Zone Questions' survey page. At the top left is the 'SHORELAND STEWARDS' logo. The top right navigation bar includes links for 'Home', 'About', 'Shoreland Guide', 'Rate Your Shoreland', 'Lake Associations', and 'MNSP'. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home / Rate Your Shoreland / Survey'. The main content area features a red house icon with a white roof and the title 'Upland Zone Questions'. To the right of the icon, a message states: 'You are taking the survey anonymously, and your answers are only saved for this session. Click the **Save and Finish Later** button to register and save your answers. Please answer this question within 19 minutes.' Below this is a progress bar labeled 'Your Progress' which is partially filled. The question text reads: 'Estimate the percentage of your Upland Zone that contains buildings, patios, driveways, parking areas, or other impervious surfaces.' There are four radio button options: '0-24% hard surfaces' (selected with a checkmark), '25-49% hard surfaces', '50-74% hard surfaces', and '75% or greater hard surfaces'. At the bottom of the question area are three buttons: 'Next', 'Register and Save', and 'Start Over'. Below the question area is a list of five expandable topics, each with a plus sign icon: 'What are hard (impervious) surfaces?', 'Why are hard (impervious) surfaces a problem?', 'MI DNR Conservation Guidelines for Inland Lakes', 'Where are the different zones? Examples: Graphics and pictures', and 'Percentage Graphics'.

Examples of how pictures are annotated to explain what is happening.



An example of a Buffer Zone with a high percentage of impervious surfaces. While it is pretty it is unhealthy for the lake. There are other lake healthy alternatives for creating a nice sitting area.



This site is a good example of having a limited access area to the lake. Vegetation in the Buffer Zone is 75% or more. Potentially, there is high percentage vegetation in the Upland Zone as well. Not all plants are native. Certain non-natives may have already been planted and then property owner landscaped around them instead of taking them all out. *Photo: Jane Herbert*



No sand has been brought in for this site. However, this can be considered a maintained beach. The soil is sandy and without vegetation the beach area is created. The shoreline is eroding and erosion extends into the Upland Zone is because of the lack of vegetation. This area should be minimized.

Photo: Scott Brown

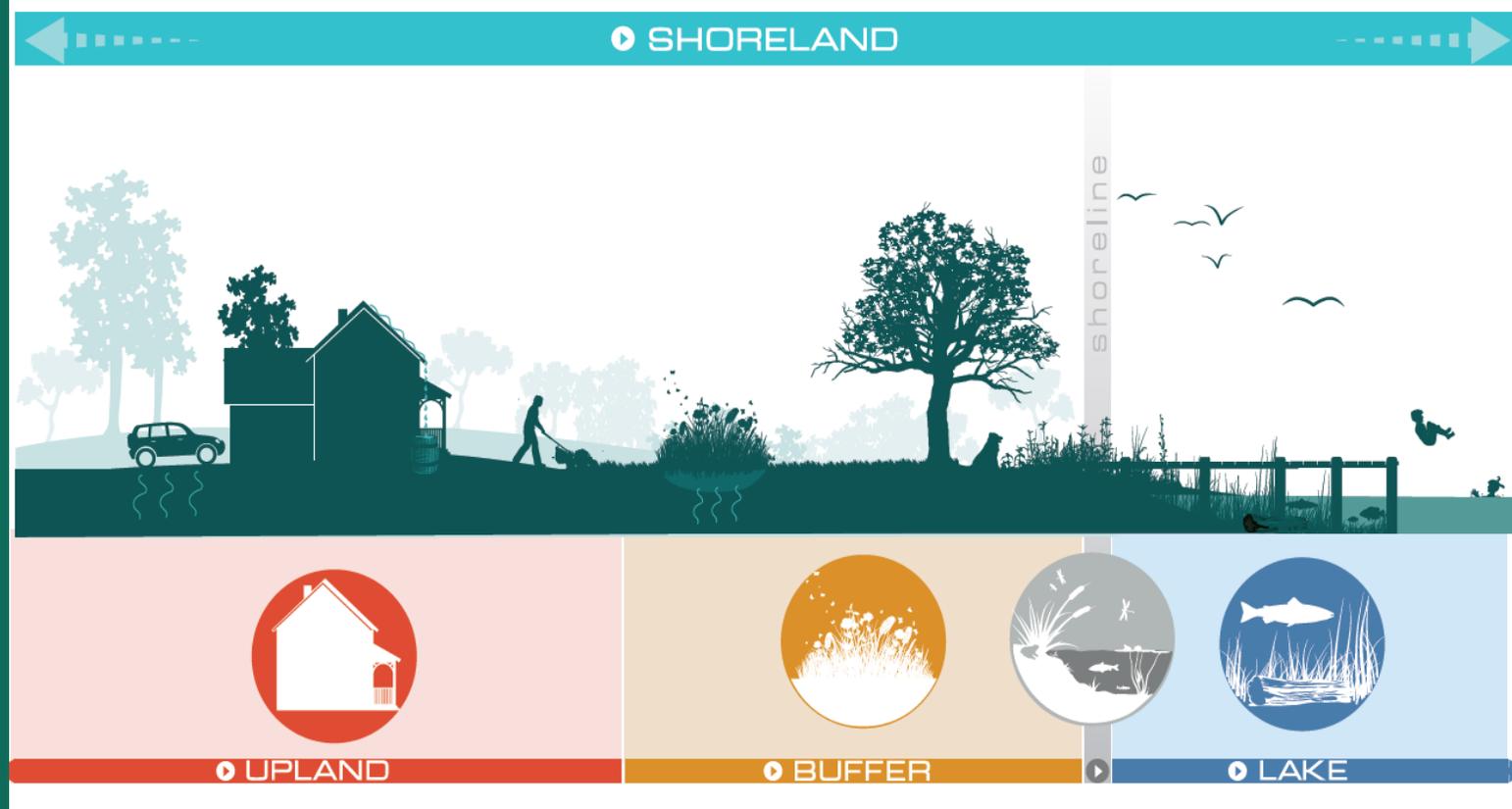


This shoreline is naturally rocky. There are no active erosion problems in this entire stretch. This is an excellent example of maintaining a highly vegetated buffer zone and minimal access. *Photo: MAPS*

Understanding the Four Zones of a Property

Ambassadors may get questions on the Zones. It will be important for Ambassadors to know:

- 1) Where to find the graphics in the Guidebook and on the MiSS website.
- 2) The general characteristics of each zone.
- 3) How to help people understand how their property aligns with the graphics.



See the
MiSS Program Guide
pages 15-22

Understanding the Four Zones of a Property

Other lake programs and initiatives categorize lakefront properties into three or five zones and may use different terms. The MiSS Program chose four zones the terms Lake, Shoreline, Buffer and Upland to:

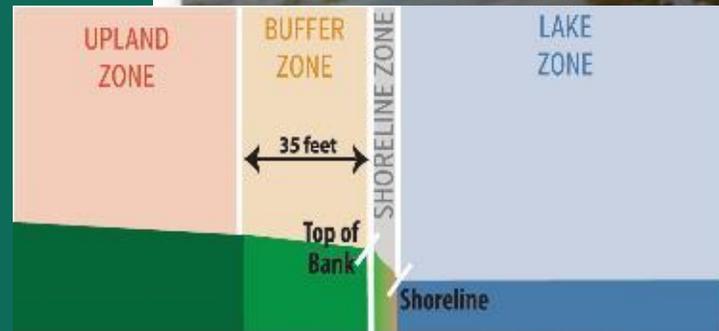
- 1) Help simplify the language (not be too scientific)
- 2) Simplify the questions in an online survey.
- 3) Allow a stronger emphasis on certain aspects of a property which are critical to the overall lake health.



How do I know where the Zones are?

- 1) The MiSS Program Guide provides explanations and graphics for people to apply to their property. These graphics can also be found throughout the survey.
- 2) Not every scenario and/or shape of a lakefront is depicted in these graphics. *People have to use their best judgement.*

Examples of graphics found during the survey

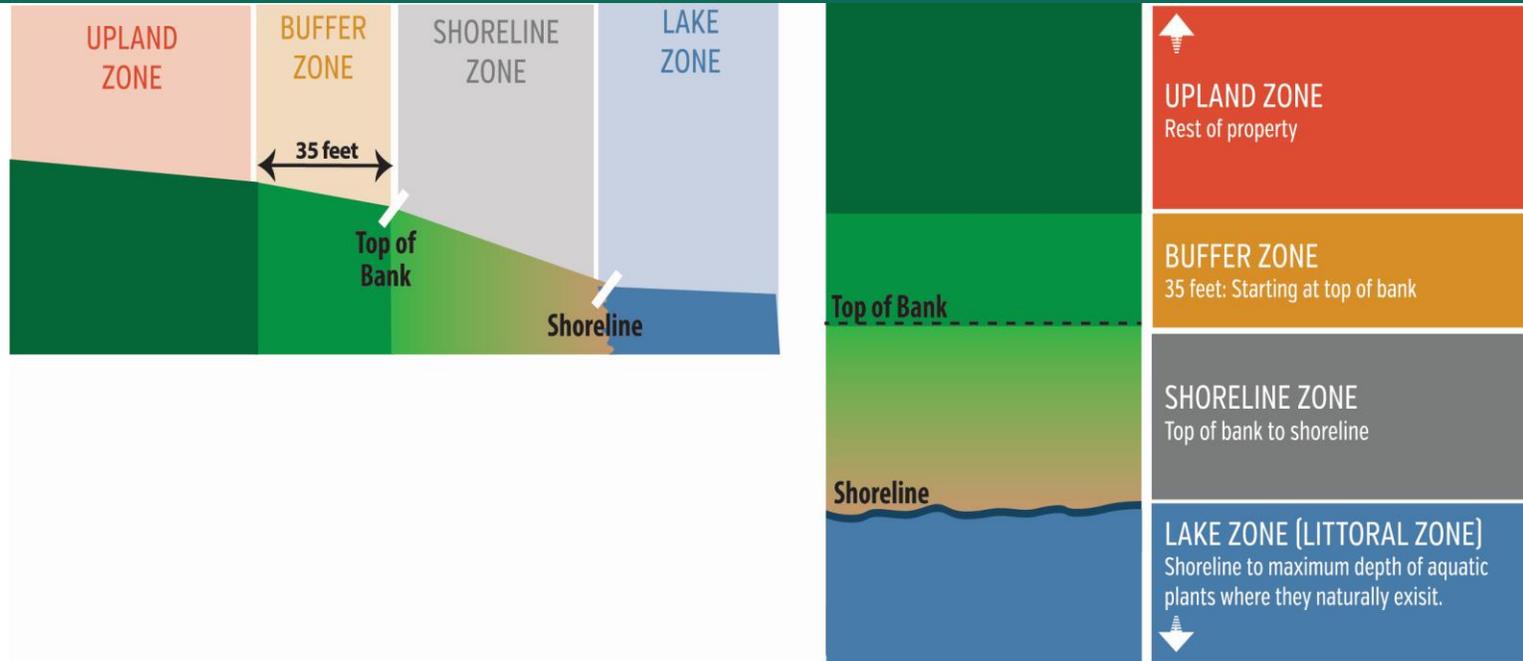


Shoreland Zones 1: Showing a small shoreline zone with little slope.

Know Your Zone

The Buffer Zone may be the zone where there is the most confusion. While there is a lot of information out there on the best size for a buffer zone or greenbelt the MiSS Program applies the following:

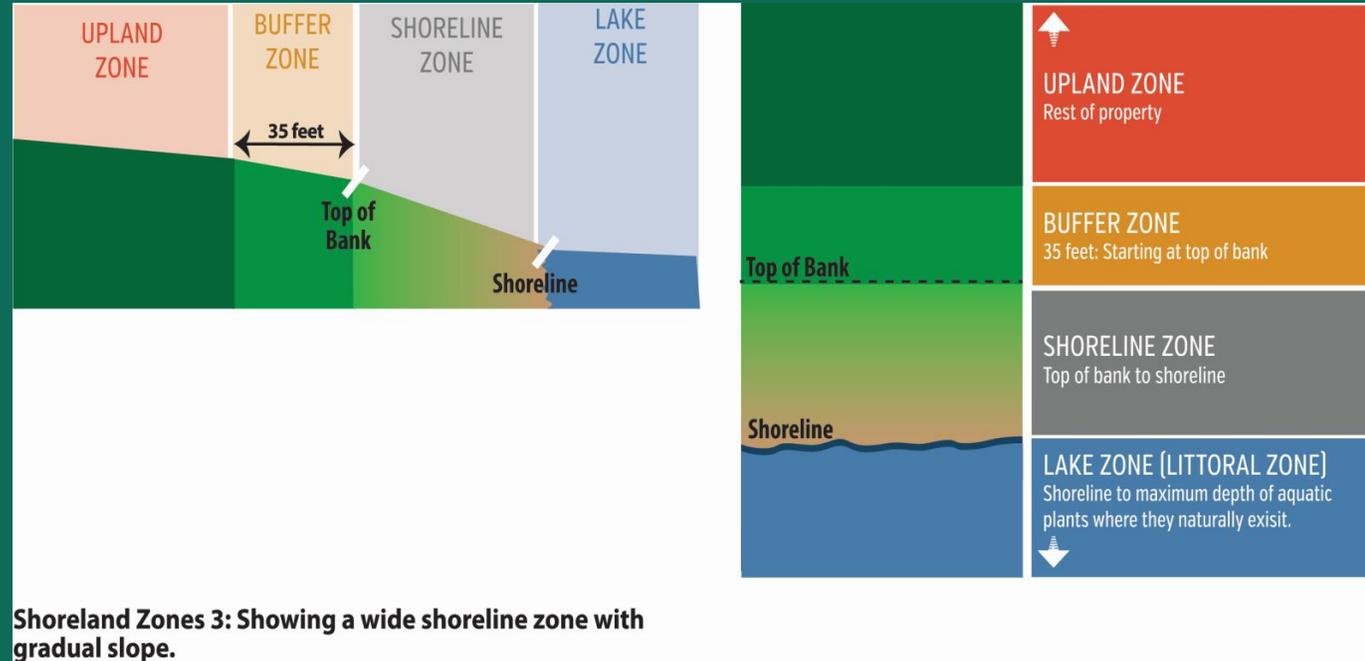
- 1) It is 35 feet deep.
- 2) The depth is consistent with current guidelines in the MI DNR's Conservation Guidelines for Michigan Inland Lakes.
- 3) It starts at the TOP of the lake bank and goes away from the lake 35 feet.
- 4) This helps make it easier to answer survey questions and focus on priority management practices related to nearshore lake health.



Shoreland Zones 3: Showing a wide shoreline zone with gradual slope.

Know Your Zone

- 1) The Buffer Zone does NOT always start right at the water's edge. It depends on the shape of the lake bank.
- 2) Some properties will not be obvious. Remember, use your best judgement based on the information provided.



A Zone “What If?” Scenario

Question: What if there is a public road dividing my property within the first 35 feet?

There are situations where there is a public road dividing properties within what would be the Buffer Zone. Ideally, it would be nice to not have the road there for the lake health but they are not going anywhere. This is a situation where practicality should be used.

In these situations do not factor the road width into the 35 feet of the Buffer Zone. Start the distance at the top of the lake bank go to the road, stop and cross the road and restart the distance after the road.



Note: Lake groups should review the roads around their lake and identify areas where stormwater runoff can be reduced and/or treated before getting into the lake.

A Zone “What If?” Scenario Continued...

However, recognize the fact that typically when there is a road between the house and the lake it is typically more challenging for properties to qualify.

The reasons?

- Many properties have seawalls.
- The lot sizes tend to be smaller with multiple structures and other hard surfaces.
- Housing density tends to be higher when main roads are next to the lake.

*All of these significantly impact the results
of the survey*



Seawalls. Lots appear smaller than picture below. These properties have a lesser chance of potentially qualifying.



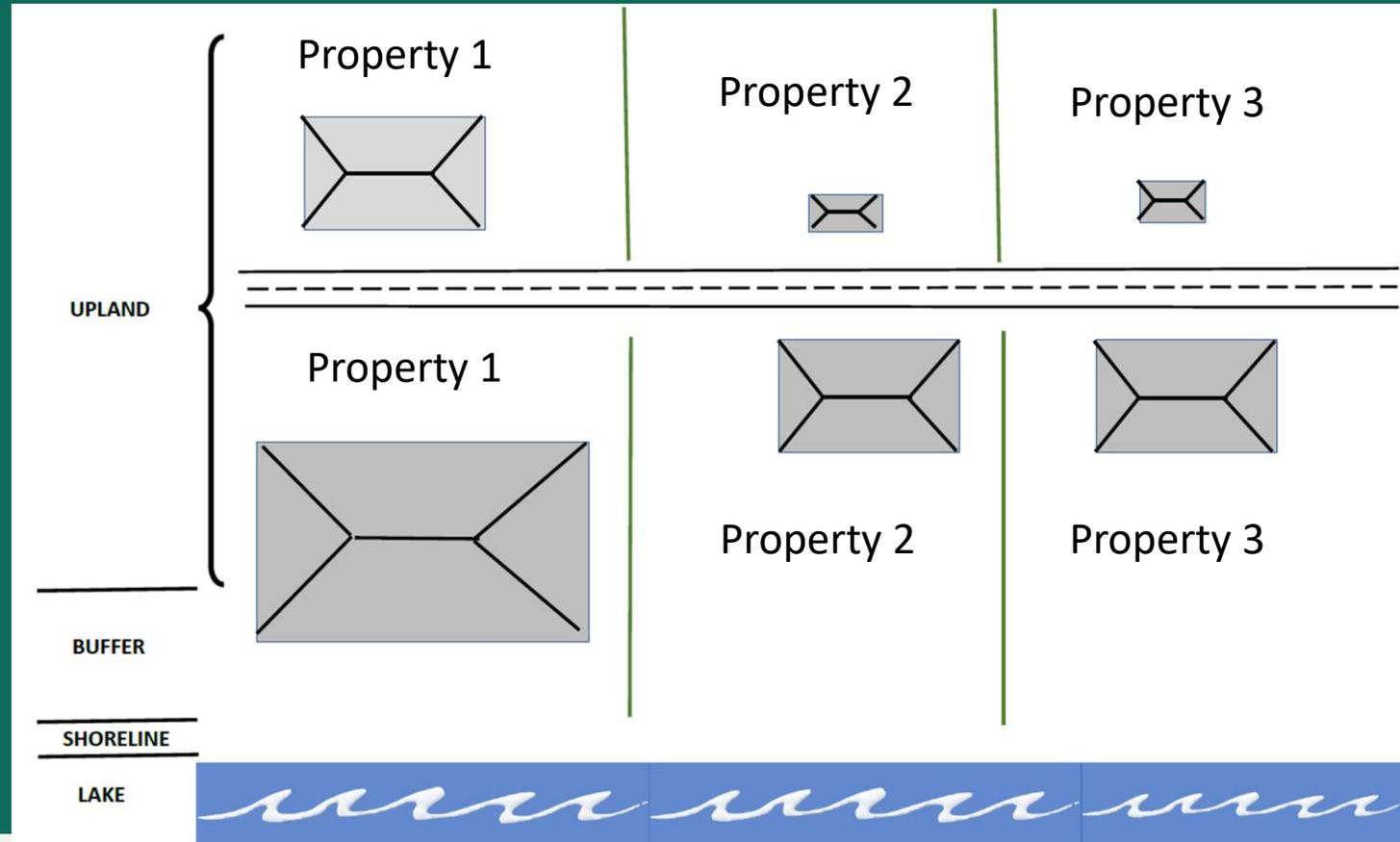
No Seawalls
A little less density of structures and impervious surfaces. Lots appear larger.

A Zone “What If?” Scenario #2

Question: What if there is a public road dividing my property behind my house in my Upland Zone? Do I include that property in my assessment?

Yes!

Even though a road may divide a property in the Upland Zone, include it all. The landowner has control over what happens on that section. What happens in the Upland Zone affects the lake too.



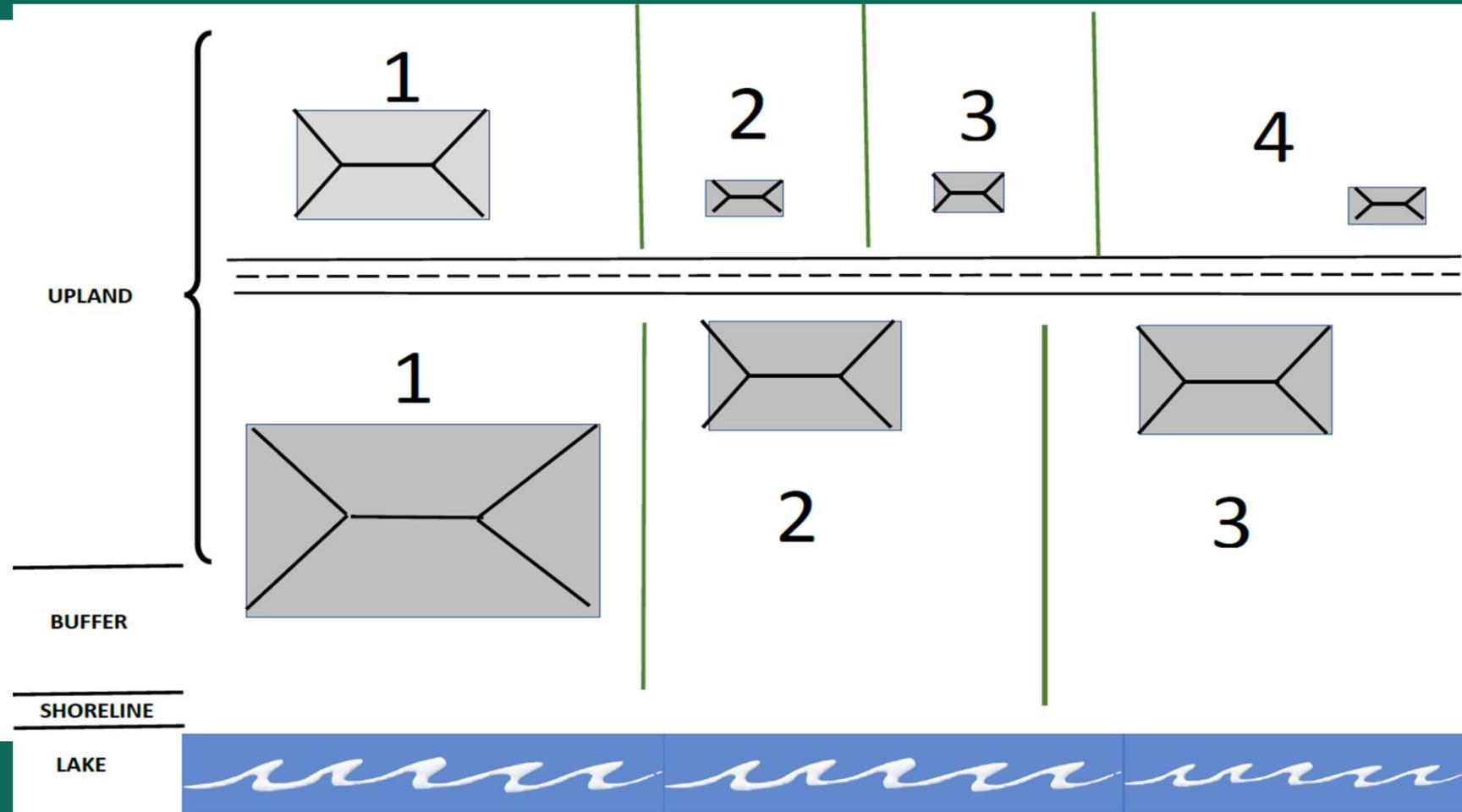
Note: Lake groups should review the roads around their lake and identify areas where stormwater runoff can be reduced and/or treated before getting into the lake.

A Zone “What If?” Scenario #2 Continued...

Question: What if I have property that is “offset”? Do I include that property in my assessment?

Yes!

Whether a road divides a property or not - include it all – even if the property is offset. A landowner has control over what happens on that section.



Properties with Seawalls?

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership is focused on protecting shorelines from erosion in ways that are healthier for the lake ecosystem rather than using seawalls.

Many property owners believe seawalls are the only or best option for erosion control. Most properties experiencing erosion do NOT need seawalls.

Properties with new seawalls after Dec. 31, 2018 will not be able to qualify.

See MiSS Program Guide
pages 7-8
Ambassador Toolkit
pages 29-30

Properties with Seawalls?

The MiSS Program does not completely exclude properties with seawalls.

Why?

- There are many existing seawalls where it isn't practical or feasible to remove and replace with an alternative solution.
- The MiSS Program encourages property owners, whether or not they have a seawall in place, to look for ways to improve their stewardship through best management practices.

Properties with Seawalls?

While some properties can potentially qualify most won't because of other conditions, such as too much impervious surface or too little Buffer Zone.

These two pictures are examples of two properties that would not qualify. The other parts of their properties are too overbuilt.



Potential to Restore

This is an example of a property where it is practical and feasible to remove this type of seawall and replace it with a bio-engineered erosion control solution. This property would not initially qualify but with improved best management practices.



Here are two examples of properties where seawall impacts have been reduced. Although these improvements help, it does not guarantee that a property will qualify. It just depends on the remainder of a property.

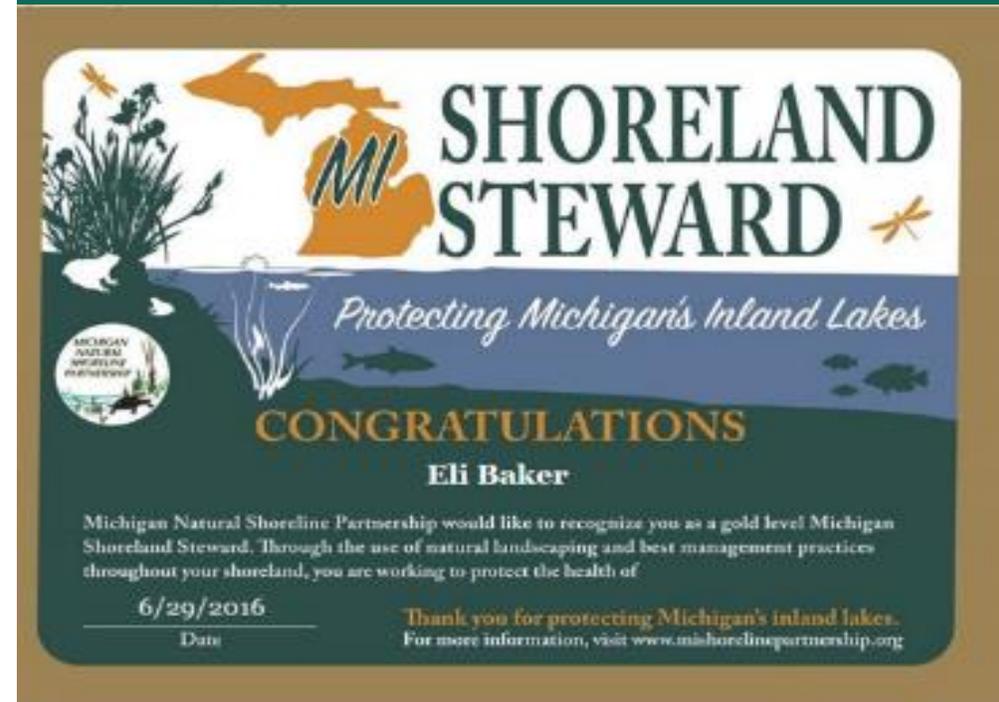
***Remember:
Not everyone can do
everything but everyone
can do something!***



Shoreland Steward Certificates

Registered Participants Only:

- A free certificate is generated at the end of the survey for qualified properties.
- The certificate's border color corresponds to the stewardship level and includes the registered participant's name, lake name and date.
- People can click on the "Print Certificate" button in their account.



Shoreland Steward Signs

- Available for purchase on *MI Lake Stewardship Associations* website.
www.mymlsa.org
- Material: .080" aluminum panel with pre-drilled holes
- Decorated with a digital print with UV laminate.
- Border Color: A border color option corresponds with the level achieved.
- Currently three sizes to choose from but the size does NOT correspond with the level.



Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program

Ambassadors should be comfortable with the fact that not every property is going to qualify.

- 1) Some will qualify the first time the survey is taken.
- 2) Some may eventually qualify after improvements are made.
- 3) And unfortunately, many lakes have properties that will not be able to qualify because the lots are too small, houses are too close to the lake and there are very high levels of impervious surfaces.

Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program Question:

Why was a Lake Stewardship Program created that not everyone could potentially qualify for?

This program is about the overall lake health from the lake perspective. Stewardship is more than just not using phosphorous based fertilizer, not dumping lawn clippings into the lake, picking up pet waste and having a few plants at the shoreline. These actions are all good things to do/not do but it isn't enough. To truly protect lakes we have to "raise the bar". That means having criteria that should be met to qualify.

Remember, the biggest threat to MI's inland lakes is loss of nearshore habitat. This program has set some standards based on available research. This is used to provide better guidance for property owners about what they can do on their properties to protect their lake and still provide a lot of flexibility for recreation and relaxing at the lake. The standards are not highly prescriptive.

Yes, there are many lakes (or sections around lakes) and properties that are overbuilt – that can't be helped now. *Let's prevent more from being overbuilt and restore where we can.*



Questions? Program Contacts:

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MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension



Next up: Part 4: The Social Stuff

This NPS Pollution Control project has been funded wholly or in part through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Nonpoint Source Program by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement OOE24910 to Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. The contents of the document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the United States Environmental Protection Agency or the Department of Environmental Quality, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

