

NATIVE PLANTINGS



MAINTENANCE

COSTS

- Range: \$480 – \$2400
(average = \$1140)
- Healthy Lakes & Rivers grant funding available: \$1000 per 350 ft² area

MATERIALS

- Black plastic or herbicide
- Native plants
- Bulb auger or hand trowel
- Mulch
- Watering equipment



POSSIBLY REQUIRED

(if using herbicides in or adjacent to the water's edge)



Beaver Dam Lake, Dodge County - Bill Foley

NATIVE PLANTINGS, a transition zone best practice, are template planting plans designed for a contiguous area of at least 350 ft². Each template has a corresponding list of native plants suited to the given soil conditions and function of the plan, including lakeshore, bird/butterfly habitat, woodland, low-growing, deer resistant, and bare soil area plantings.

PURPOSE

Native plantings improve wildlife habitat, slow runoff water, and promote natural beauty. Each template described above serves all of these functions to some degree, but one may be better than another given your property's unique site characteristics and areas of concern. For example, the bird/butterfly template includes flowers that attract these types of wildlife.

HOW TO BUILD

It may be necessary to work with your local land and water conservation department or a landscaper to design and/or install these plantings. Check with your local zoning department to determine if any permits are necessary. Planting specifications and densities follow [Wisconsin Biology Technical Note 1: Shoreland Habitat](#).

Detailed guidance is found here: <http://healthylakeswi.com>.

1. Find a location

350 ft² native plantings should begin, if possible, at the typical water's edge (i.e. Ordinary High Water Mark on a lake or the floodplain edge of a river), be at least 10 feet wide – parallel or perpendicular to the shore, and contiguous rather than planted in patches. The final shape and orientation to the water's edge are up to you. Choose an area of turf grass you wish to revert back to a more natural state or an already vegetated area you would like to augment. Try to choose a location in full or partial sun.

2. Determine soil type

It's important to understand what type of soil is in the planting location because that will determine which native plants can survive and thrive. The fact sheet links provide tools and guidance to help determine your soil type. Most of the template plans have two plant lists – one for moister soils and one for drier soils.

PROJECT TIMELINE

SITE PREP
6 WEEKS - 6 MONTHS

INSTALLATION
1-2 DAYS

MAINTENANCE
2 YEARS

PROJECT END
3 YEARS
Ongoing weeding may be necessary in subsequent years.

