

# VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

## INTRODUCTION

Vegetation management involves both a passive and active management system. The intent of both systems is to stabilize the soil and minimize the impacts of erosion, sedimentation, flooding, and loss of habitat. "Passive" vegetation management deals with protection and enhancement of existing diverse native plant communities along all shorelines including rivers, marshes, bogs, swamps, lakes, and steep bluffs. "Active" vegetation management involves the restoration of altered or threatened shorelines using a technology called soil bioengineering which reestablishes native plant communities as a dynamic system that stabilizes the land from the effects of erosion. Vegetation Management provisions apply even to those shorelines and uses which are exempt from a permit requirement.

## POLICIES

1. Native plant communities bordering state shorelines should be protected and maintained to minimize damage to the environment of the shoreline area.
2. Restoration of shorelines which have been impacted by human activities should use soil bioengineering techniques, except where proven ineffective, to arrest the process of erosion, sedimentation and flooding.
3. Rehabilitation of degraded shorelines for the purpose of habitat enhancement should utilize soil bioengineering techniques where possible.

## REGULATIONS

1. Shorelines shall be protected from degradation caused by the modification of the land surface within the shoreline area and/or the adjacent uplands. Noxious weeds, invasive exotic plant species, and hazardous trees shall be selectively managed to protect the environment, property and life.
2. The restoration of any shoreline that has been disturbed or degraded shall attempt to re-introduce suitable native plant species that are appropriate for the soil and hydrological conditions.
3. Stabilization of exposed surfaces along shorelines shall, wherever feasible, use soil bioengineering techniques.
4. All Shoreline vegetation management activities and measures shall conform to standards set forth in county and/or state approved flood plain management plans, where available.