

Critical Habitat Features for Your Local Fish and Wildlife Species

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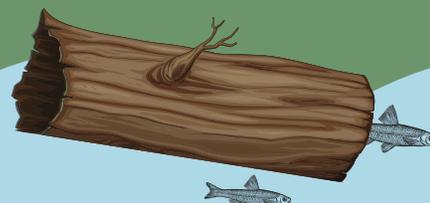
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Creating a Wildlife-Friendly Shoreline

1

Overhead Cover

Overhanging branches help cool water and leaf litter provides a source of food.

Action: Plant native tree and shrub species along your shoreline.

2

Aquatic Vegetation

Native plants protect against invasive species and provide habitat and food.

Action: Manually clear a path to deeper waters and leave all other aquatic vegetation plants.

3

Native Plant Buffer

Native plants along the shoreline provides habitat and prevents erosion!

Action: Use the Natural Edge Program to restore your shoreline with native plants suited for your property.

4

Woody Debris

This provides fish and other wildlife like turtles, birds, and insects with habitat!

Action: As long as it is not a hazard to you, leave woody debris when it falls in the water or on the shore.

5

No-Mow Zone

Manicured lawns promote surface runoff and lack habitat for any species.

Action: Pick an area of the property to retire and consider a rain garden or meadow.

6

Winding Path

Straight paths to the water can erode soil and increase surface runoff.

Action: Define your path in an "S" shape that follows your property's slope. Add wood chips or pine needles.

7

Habitat Features

Bramble, alive or dead, provides crucial habitat and food for a variety of species!

Action: If it is not a hazard, leave stumps, logs, fallen branches and leaves, and dead standing trees in place.

8

Light Pollution

Artificial lights can disrupt natural cycles like foraging, mating or migration.

Action: Choose low-voltage outdoor lights. Aim lights down where needed, such as on paths and by the door.

While many species benefit from a natural shoreline, here are two in particular:



Walleye

Cool-water fish native to Ontario that seeks shelter within aquatic vegetation and near woody and rocky areas.



Painted Turtle

Lives in marsh areas and lakes that have a soft bottom and lots of basking (sunning) sites and aquatic vegetation.

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