



# Shoreline Resources

## Shorelines and Soils

Soil Type	Description
 A circular sample of light brown sand with the word 'SAND' printed in black capital letters in the center.	coarse texture, gritty to the touch, drains quickly
 A circular sample of dark grey silt with the word 'SILT' printed in white capital letters in the center.	fine texture, smooth and floury to the touch when wet
 A circular sample of light brown soil with a cracked, plastic-like texture and the word 'CLAY' printed in black capital letters in the center.	very fine texture, sticky and plastic-like when wet, drains slowly
 A circular sample of dark brown soil with the word 'LOAM' printed in white capital letters in the center.	a mixture of sand, silt and clay particles, most desirable for plantings

Every shoreline is unique and requires different approaches to restoration. Current and desired land use, existing conditions, **soil type**, availability of sunlight and moisture, and restoration goals all play a significant role in selecting the appropriate restoration methods.

One method may include **active planting** of native trees, shrubs, grasses, wildflowers and/or aquatic plants in the buffer area. Before determining the plants to use, an examination of site characteristics such as soil type, moisture and compaction, drainage patterns and availability of sunlight is important.

Here are some tips regarding plant selection:

- Select plants that are appropriate for your site conditions (soil, sunlight, etc.).
- Choose native plant species grown from local seed sources as they are best suited to survive local climate conditions and provide the greatest benefits to wildlife.
- Exercise caution when purchasing native species from commercial nurseries as plants that appear native may actually be similar exotic species or cultivars —purchase plants from a native plant nursery whenever possible to ensure authenticity.
- Choose flowering or fruit bearing plants for maximum wildlife benefits.
- Look to see what is growing locally—there is a good chance that these plants will do well on your property too.

## References and Further Reading

- **How to Naturalize Your Shoreline, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority**

[http://www.rvca.ca/programs/shoreline\\_naturalization\\_program/how\\_to\\_naturalize.html](http://www.rvca.ca/programs/shoreline_naturalization_program/how_to_naturalize.html)

- **Native Plants From Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Council**

<http://haliburtonstewardship.ca/plants>