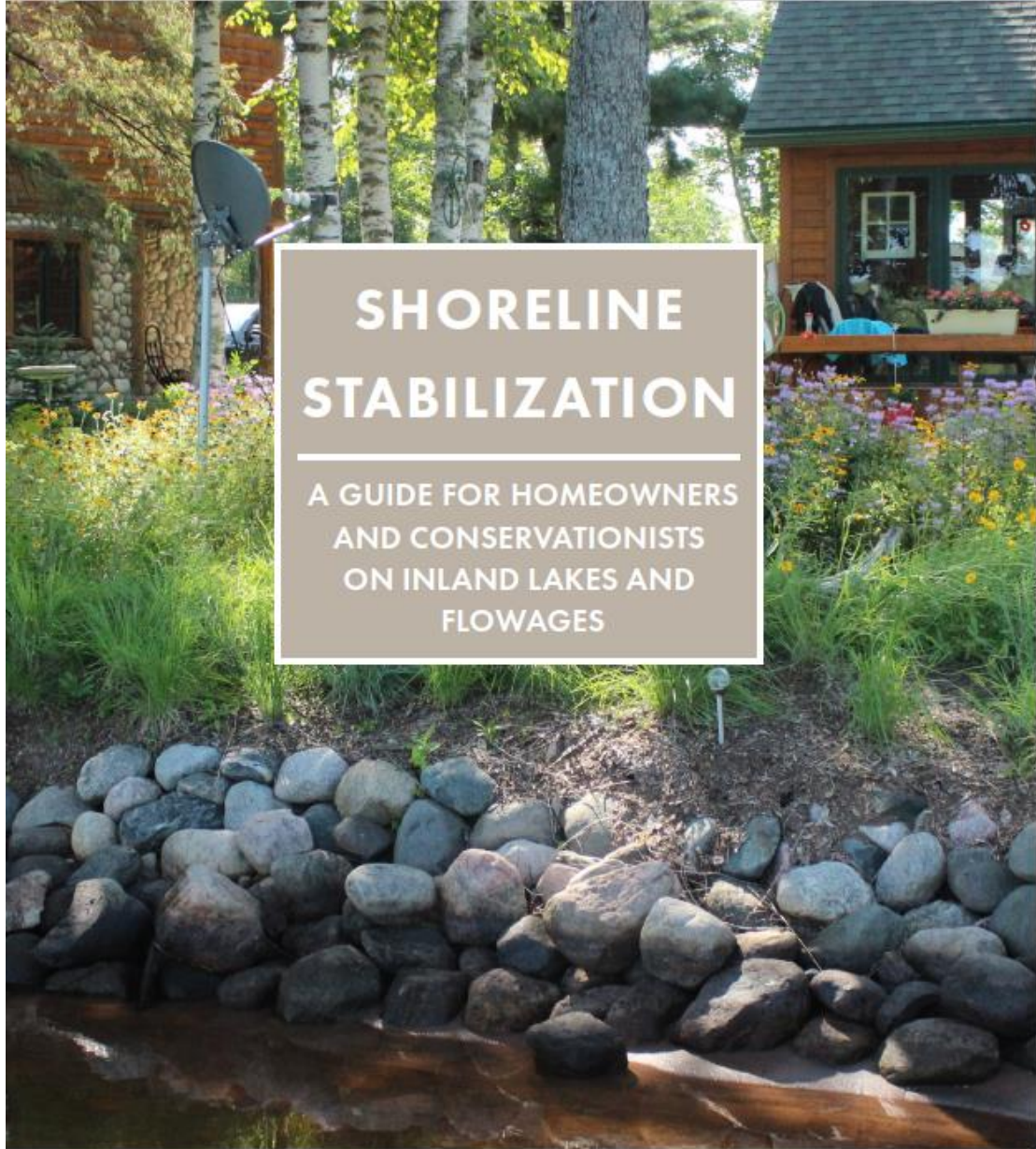




# Review of the various shoreline improvement methods per Sauk County Lake Cost Share Funding Program

Mitch McCarthy



# SHORELINE STABILIZATION

A GUIDE FOR HOMEOWNERS  
AND CONSERVATIONISTS  
ON INLAND LAKES AND  
FLOWAGES

[https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/land\\_conservation/page/120767/shoreline\\_stabilization\\_guide\\_for\\_homeowners\\_web\\_6.25.pdf](https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/land_conservation/page/120767/shoreline_stabilization_guide_for_homeowners_web_6.25.pdf)

THE WISCONSIN SHORELINE STABILIZATION OUTREACH PROJECT

WITH ASSISTANCE FROM  
THE WISCONSIN LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

2021

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & INTENDED USE OF “*SHORELINE STABILIZATION: A GUIDE FOR HOMEOWNERS AND CONSERVATIONISTS ON INLAND LAKES AND FLOWAGES*”

*Shoreline Stabilization: A Guide for Homeowners and Conservationists* is result of the collective effort by the Wisconsin Shoreline Stabilization Outreach Project (SSOP). The members of the group are conservationists, technicians, and outreach specialists from 11 county conservation departments across Wisconsin, with assistance from Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

This guide is an educational tool for both homeowners and conservationists that explains the basic principles of shoreline management on residential properties. The information within is based on Wisconsin topography, soils, and shoreline dynamics.

The guide is intended only as an educational document. As a homeowner, please do more research and seek professional guidance before installing any of these practices.

Before starting any alteration of your shoreline, make sure you have any required permits from the appropriate local municipalities, county government, tribal government, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as needed.

Special thanks to Karen Engelbretson of KJE Design, LLC and Elliot Meyer of WI Land+Water for their contributions to the guide.

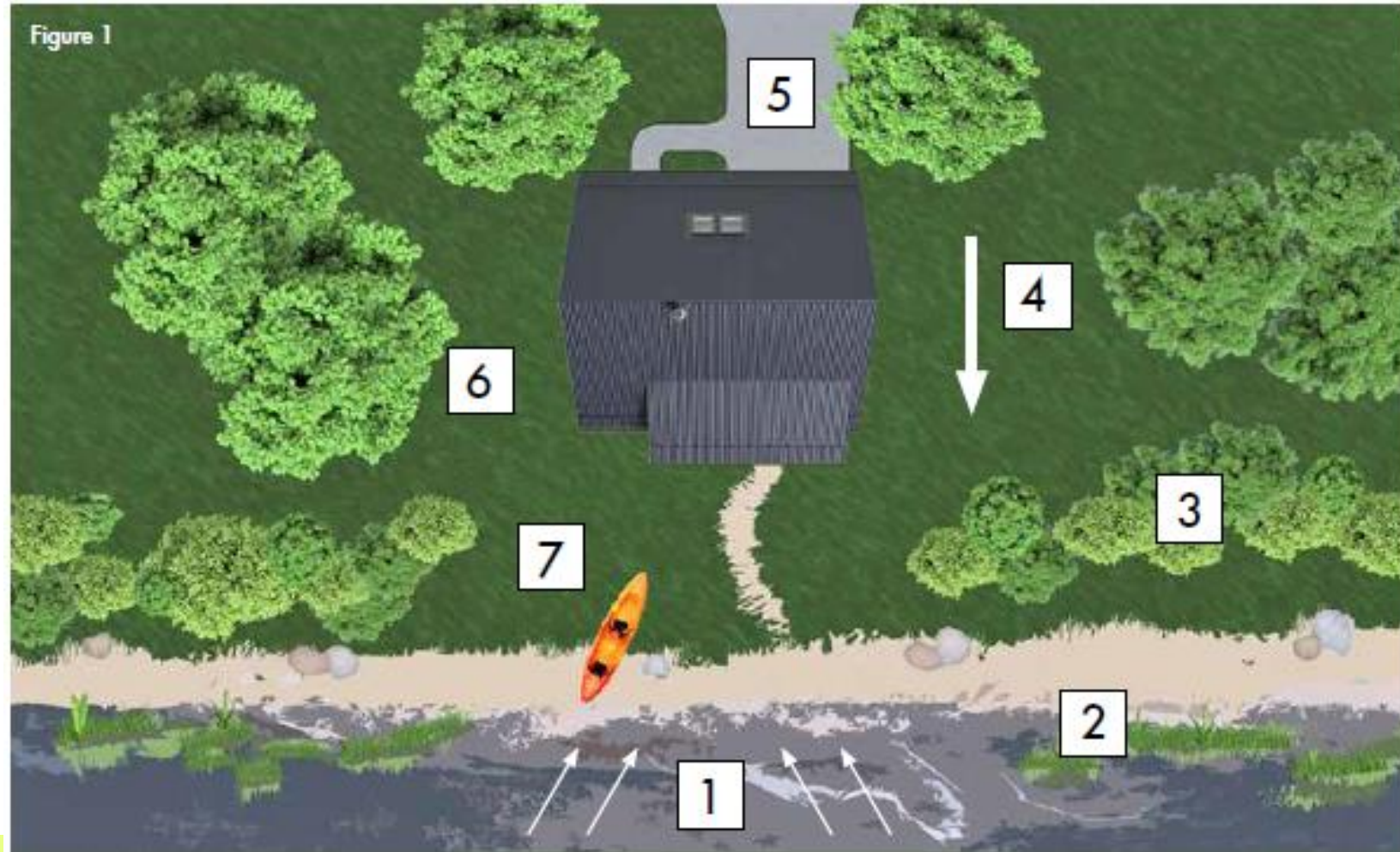
Figures 2-13 © 2021 KJE Design, LLC. All rights reserved. Used under license.

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# Assessing Your Shoreline

1. Wave Energy
2. Aquatic Vegetation
3. Shoreline Vegetation
4. Slope
5. Impervious Surfaces
6. Soil Type
7. Recreational Use



# Decision Table For Types Of Practices

		APPROPRIATE							USE & BENEFITS											
		Site Access and Recreation Friendly	Provides Aquatic Habitat	Enhances Fish Habitat	Improves Wildlife Habitat	Little Site Disturbance	Useful Where Space is Limited	Flexible Molded to Existing Contours	Maintains Bank's Natural Appearance	Immediate Protective Cover	Appropriate Above and Below OHWM	Survives Fluctuating Water Levels	Increase Slope Stability	Reduces Slope Length	Reduces Surface Erosion	Reduces Toe Erosion	Reduces Wave Energy Hitting Bank	Sleep or Vertical Banks		
<b>STABILIZATION PRACTICE</b>	Vegetated Buffers	No Mow	X		X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X		X			
		Native Plantings	X		X	X	X		X			X	X	X		X				X
	Bioengineering with Natural Fiber Products	Natural Fiber Rolls and Logs	X				X		X			X		X		X	X	X		
		Natural Fiber Blocks	X				X		X			X	X				X			
		Natural Fiber Mats	X				X		X			X	X			X				
	Wave-Reducing Natural Timbers	Log Revetment		X	X	X		X				X	X	X			X	X		
		Log and Root Wad Revetment		X	X	X						X	X	X			X	X		
		Fish Sticks/Tree Drop		X	X	X						X		X				X		
	Riprap with Bioengineering Techniques	Rock Riprap Toe						X				X	X	X	X		X	X		
		Rock Riprap Toe with Native Plantings				X			X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
		Vegetated Rock Riprap Toe				X		X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
		Rock Riprap Toe with Geotextile Bags				X			X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
		Rock Riprap Toe with Geogrid Lifts				X			X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
		Synthetic Engineered Matting	X																X	X

# Vegetated Buffer



# Vegetated Buffer-Example

## NATIVE PLANTINGS

### Appropriate Uses & Benefits

- Most sites are appropriate
- Areas with little or no traffic are best
- Areas with little or no wave action

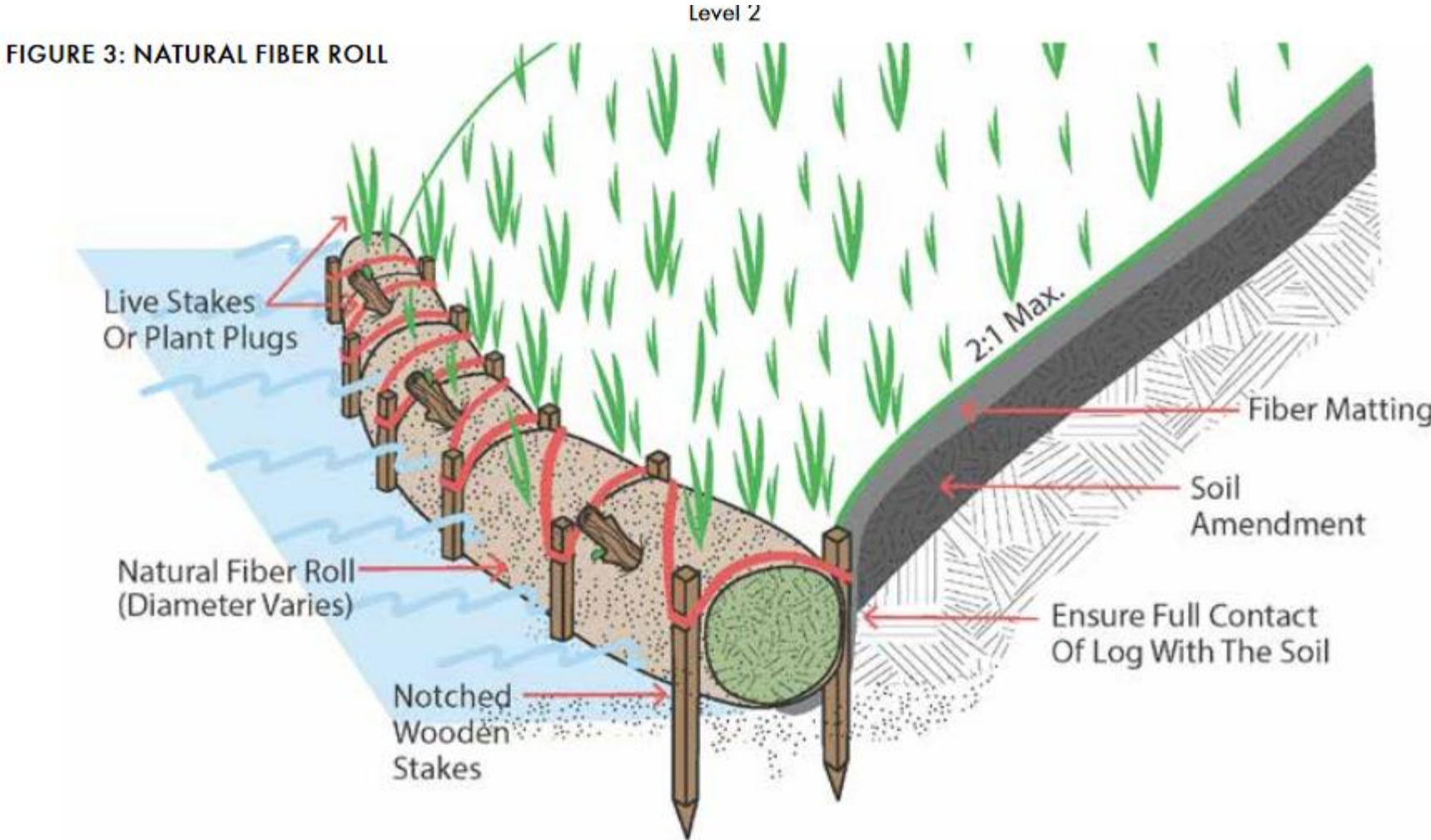
### Limitations

- Cost
- Maintenance is required (e.g. fencing, watering, and weeding)
- Deer browse may be an issue
- Not for use on sites with active erosion issues
- May need additional practices to address erosion



Turtle Flambeau Flowage, Iron County WI

# Bioengineering with Natural Fiber Products



LEVEL 2: BIOENGINEERING WITH NATURAL FIBER PRODUCTS

NATURAL FIBER ROLLS



# Bioengineering with Natural Fiber Products-Example

## NATURAL FIBER ROLLS

### Appropriate Uses & Benefits

- Lightweight (when not saturated with water)
- Easy to install
- Little site disturbance
- Builds to existing contours
- Provides nutrients to plants as it biodegrades

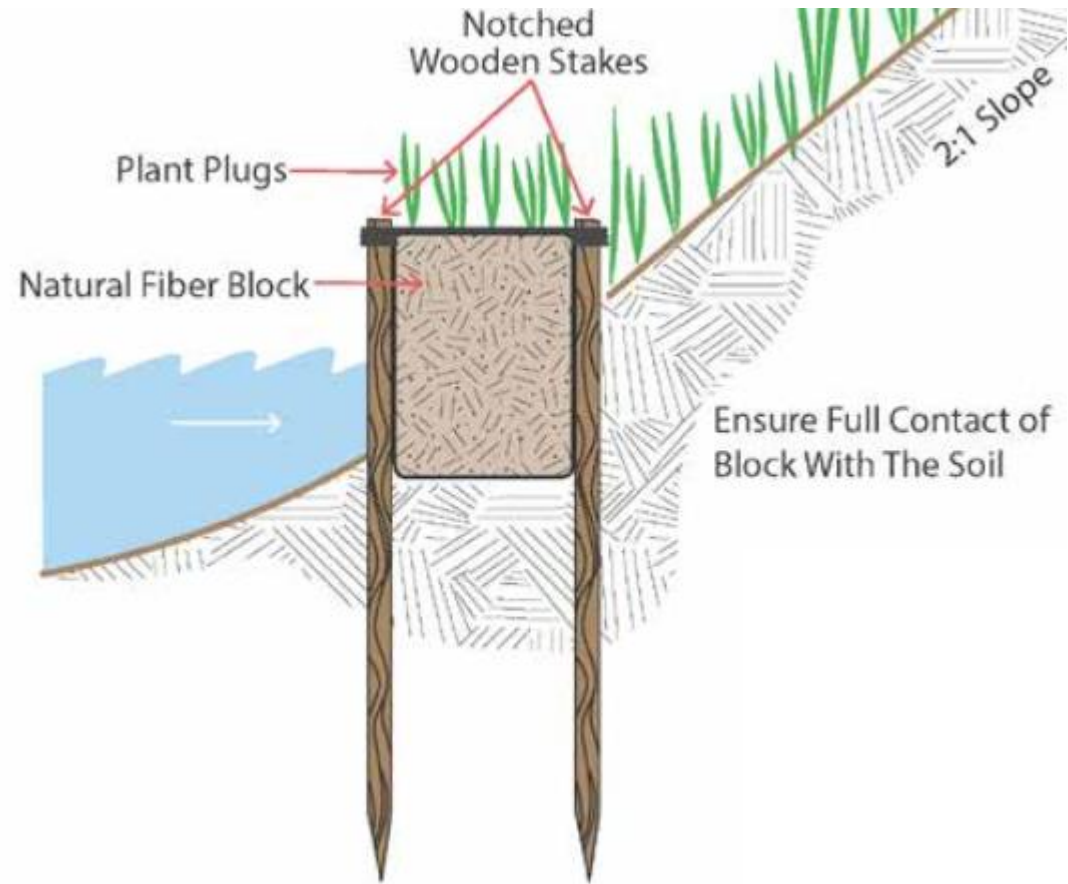
### Limitations

- Works best in low energy locations
- Can be damaged by ice or move if not staked
- Water level fluctuation affects plants
- Small surface area contact with bank
- Fiber may be non-native



Found Lake, Vilas County

# Natural Fiber Blocks



# Natural Fiber Block-Example

## NATURAL FIBER BLOCKS

### Appropriate Uses & Benefits

- Lightweight (when not saturated with water)
- More surface area contact with bank than a fiber roll
- Plant growth covers most of the structure
- Good in low and medium wave energy sites
- Can be made from regional fiber, specifically Great Lakes aspen

### Limitations

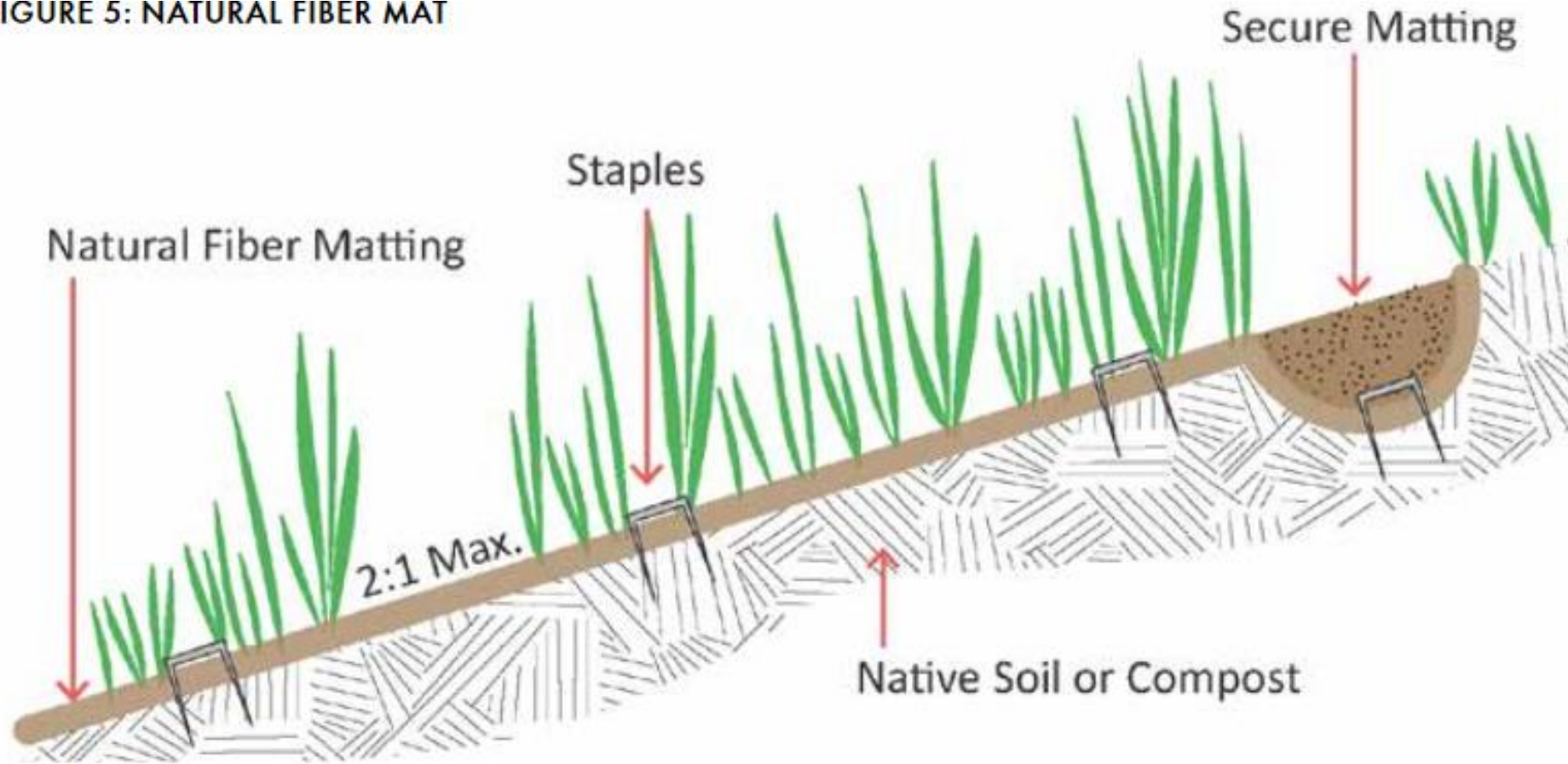
- Works best in low energy locations
- Can be damaged by ice or move if not staked
- Water level fluctuation affects plants
- Fiber may be non-native



Boulder Lake, Vilas County

# Natural Fiber Mat

FIGURE 5: NATURAL FIBER MAT



# Natural Fiber Mat -Example

## NATURAL FIBER MATS

### Appropriate Uses & Benefits

- Quick installation
- Can be used on either flat or sloped ground
- Reduces runoff and erosion of bare soil
- Plants are easily sown throughout mat
- Seed sown underneath mat will grow through
- Feeds nutrients to the plants as it biodegrades
- Retains moisture for plant growth

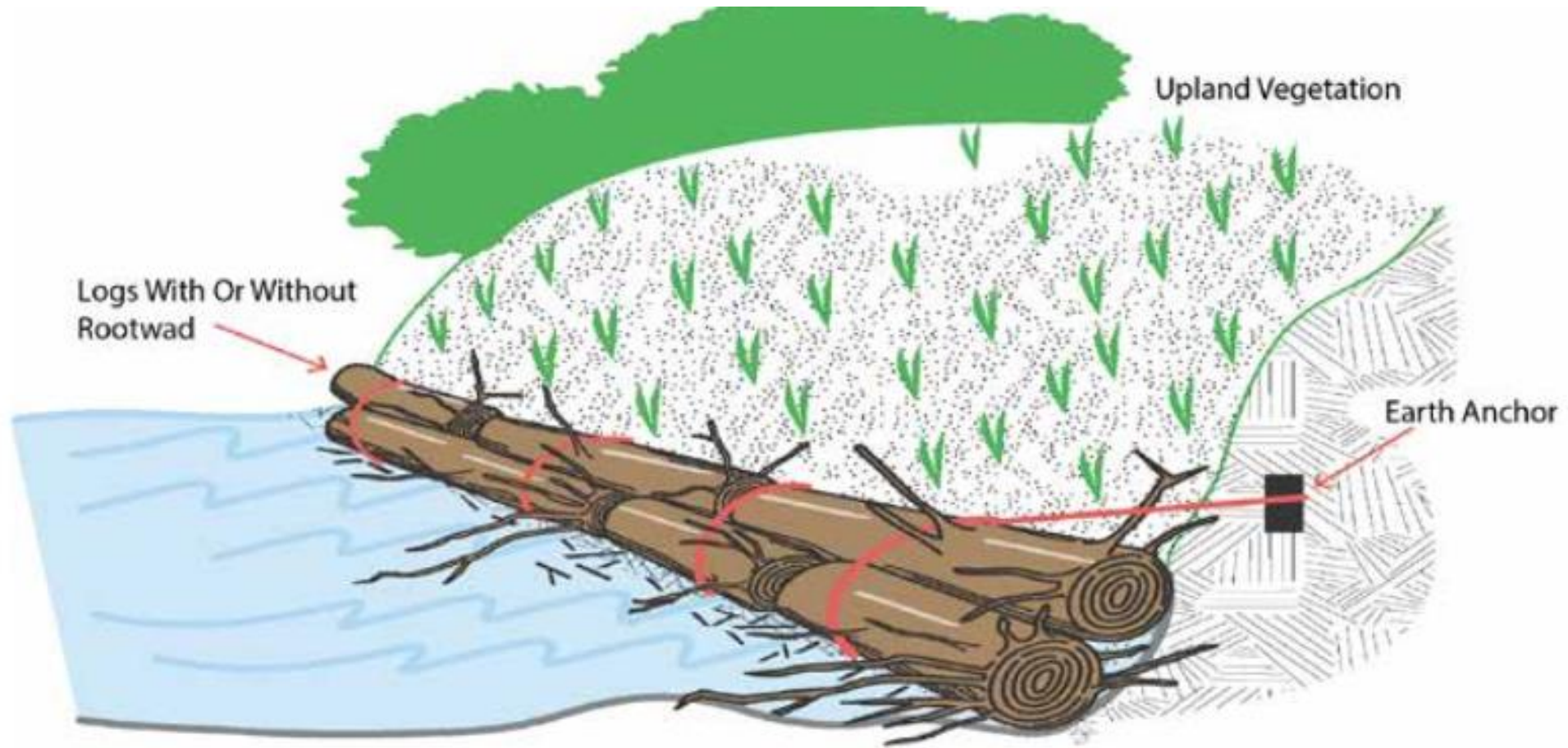
### Limitations

- Can be dislodged by wind or water
- Must be properly stapled to the ground
- Can be expensive for large areas
- Not appropriate for steep slopes
- Potential for wildlife entanglement



Bearskin Lake, Oneida County

# Wave Reducing Natural Timbers



# Wave Reducing Natural Timbers- Example

## LOG AND ROOT WAD REVETMENT

### Appropriate Uses & Benefits

- Both high and low energy sites
- Improves spawning habitat
- Economical

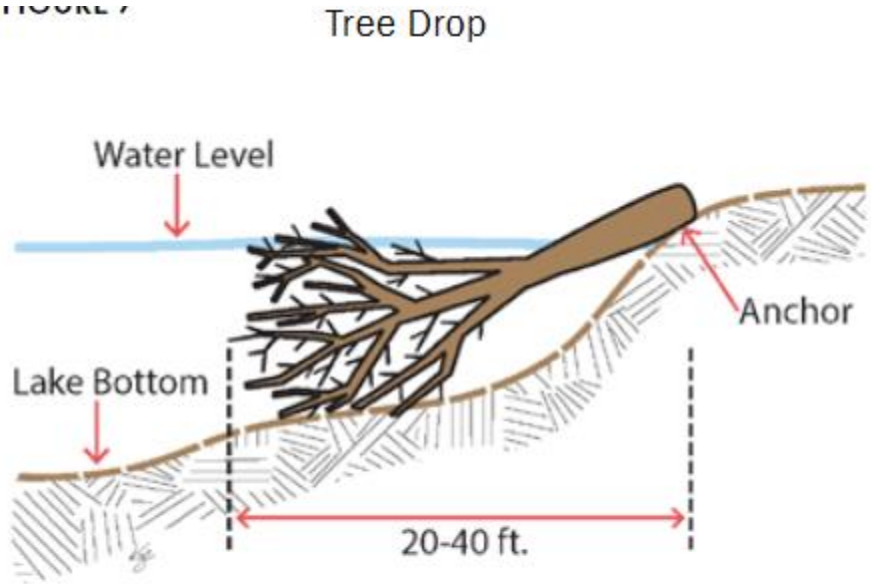
### Limitations

- Limits shoreline access
- Creates shoreline disturbance
- May need to be replaced eventually
- Transporting and access to trees

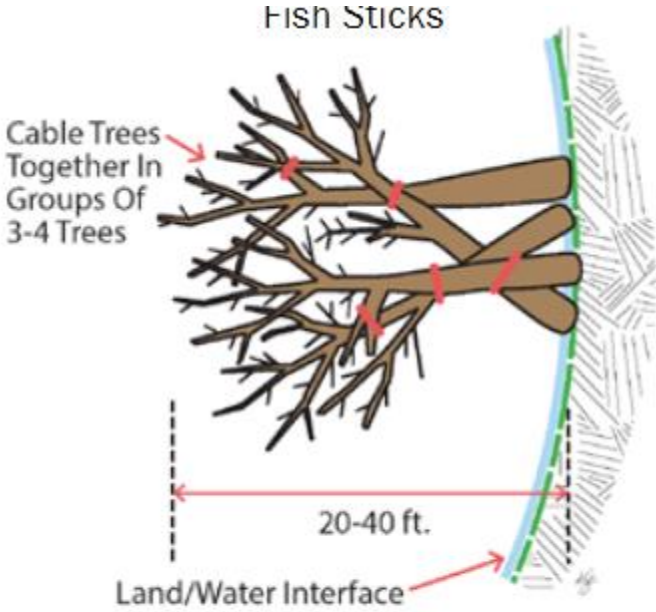


Project on Dutch Hollow Lake, Sauk County WI

# Fish Sticks and Tree Drops



Side View



Top View



# Fish Sticks and Tree Drops-Example

## FISH STICKS AND TREE DROPS

### Appropriate Uses & Benefits

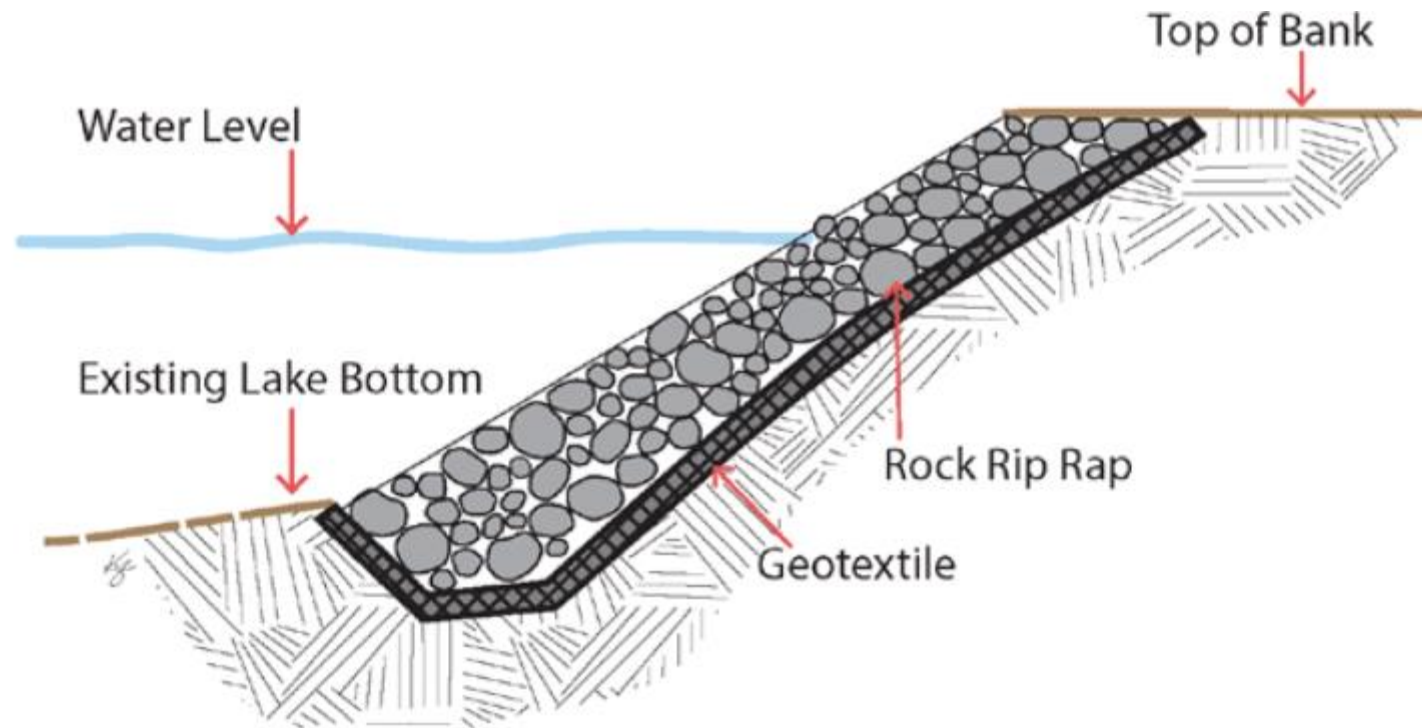
- Reduces wave energy and limits bank erosion
- Provides habitat for a variety of species
- Provides an environment for establishing aquatic plants
- Restores natural structure to lakes

### Limitations

- Accessing and transporting trees
- Not suitable for high energy sites
- Not suitable near heavy boat traffic
- Avoid walleye spawning areas
- Icy conditions can delay installation



# Riprap With Bioengineering Techniques



# Riprap Bioengineering Techniques-Example

## ROCK RIPRAP TOE WHERE NATIVE VEGETATION CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED

### Appropriate Uses & Benefits

- Severe erosion
- Bank undercutting
- High wave energy
- Unstable soils

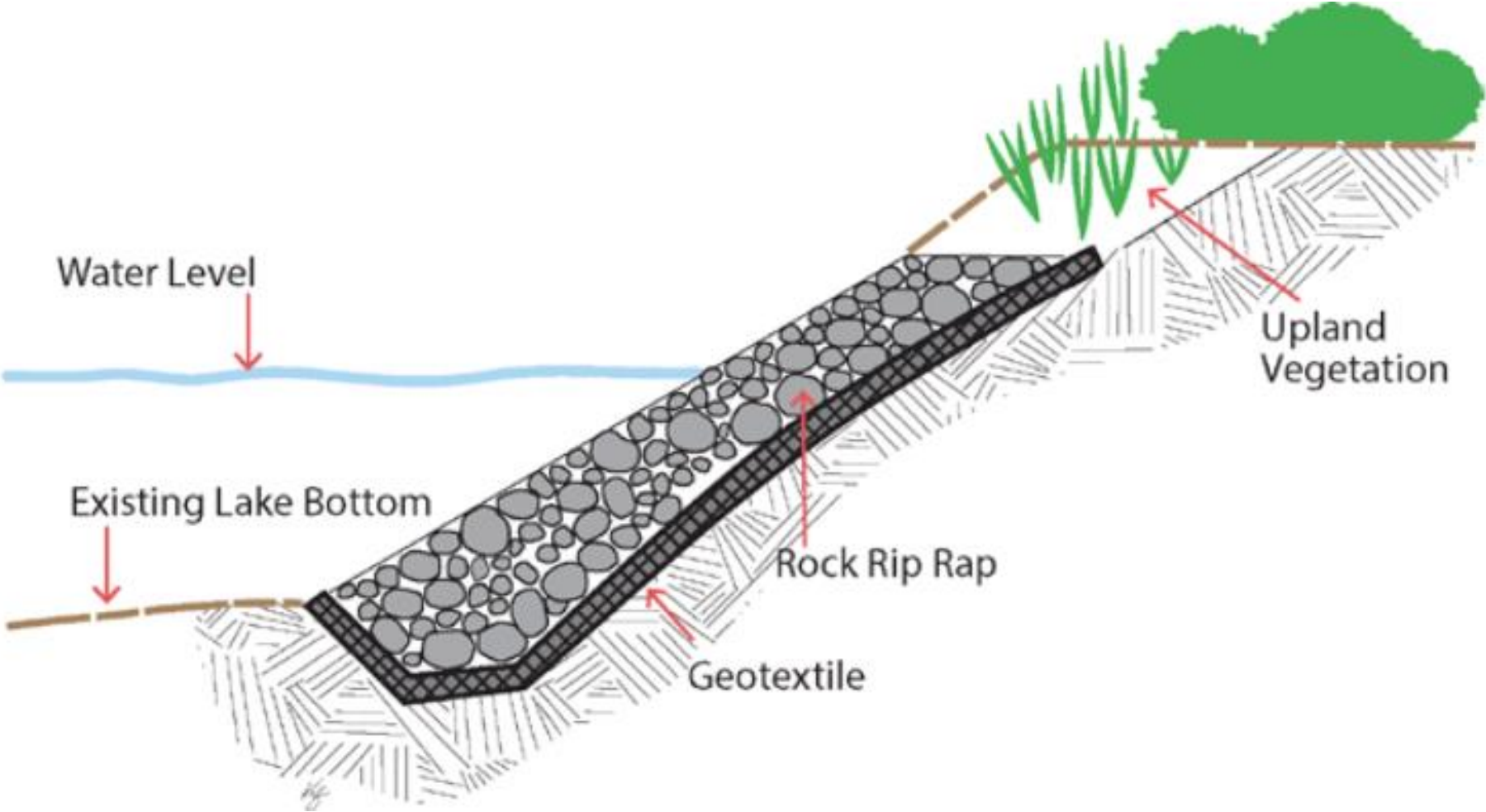
### Limitations

- Cost and labor intensive
- Loss of habitat and ecosystem benefits
- Ice shoves
- Requires engineering
- Accessibility issues
- Side or flank erosion concerns



Bearskin Lake, Oneida County

# Riprap Toe With Native Plantings



# Riprap Toe With Native Plantings-Example

## ROCK RIPRAP TOE WITH NATIVE PLANTINGS

### Appropriate Uses & Benefits

- Severe erosion
- Bank undercutting
- High wave energy
- Oversplash of waves on low bank

### Limitations

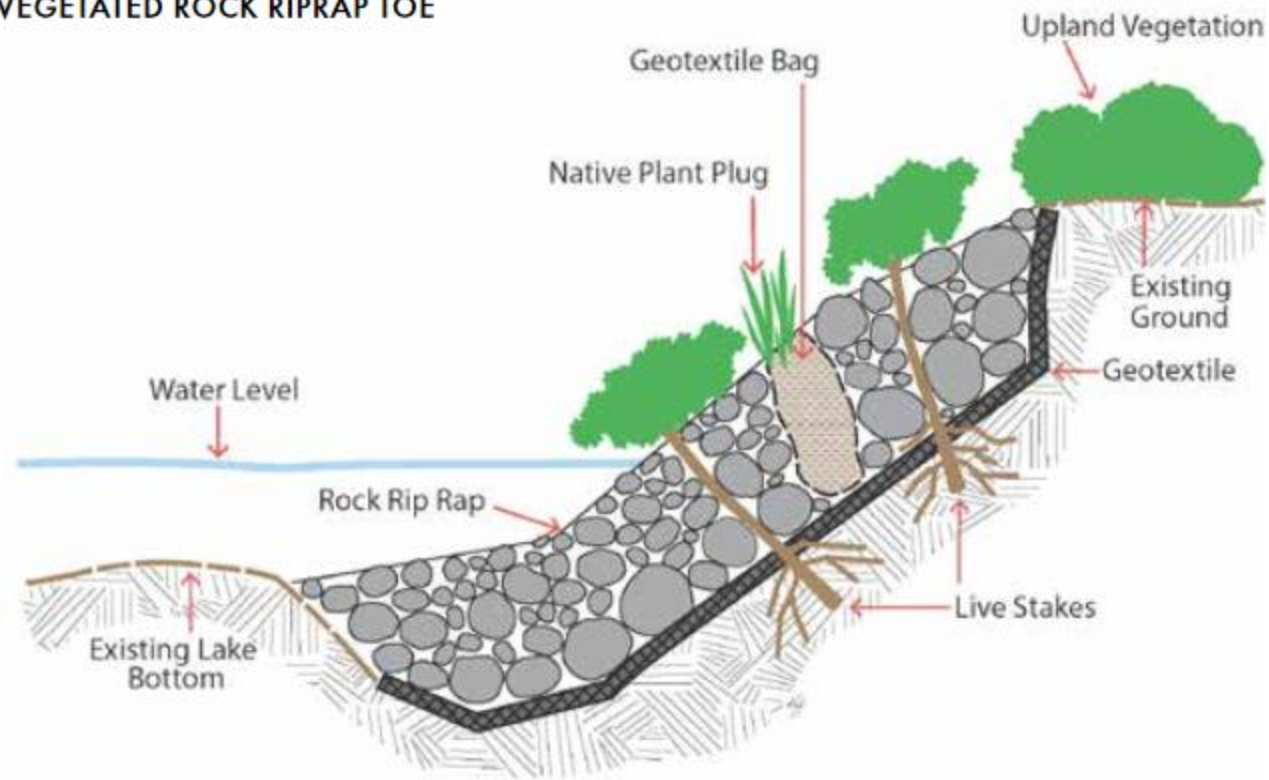
- Cost
- Labor intensive
- Requires engineering
- Plant knowledge and maintenance



and after 4 years, Soo Lake, Price County

# Vegetated Rock Riprap Toe

D: VEGETATED ROCK RIPRAP TOE



# Vegetated Rock Riprap Toe-Example

## VEGETATED ROCK RIPRAP TOE

### Appropriate Uses & Benefits

- Wildlife habitat
- Adds strength and durability to landscape
- Immediately camouflages rocks to look more natural with the shoreline
- Fills voids within rock to reduce entrapment of critters
- Instead of covering rock with soil and seeding it

### Limitations

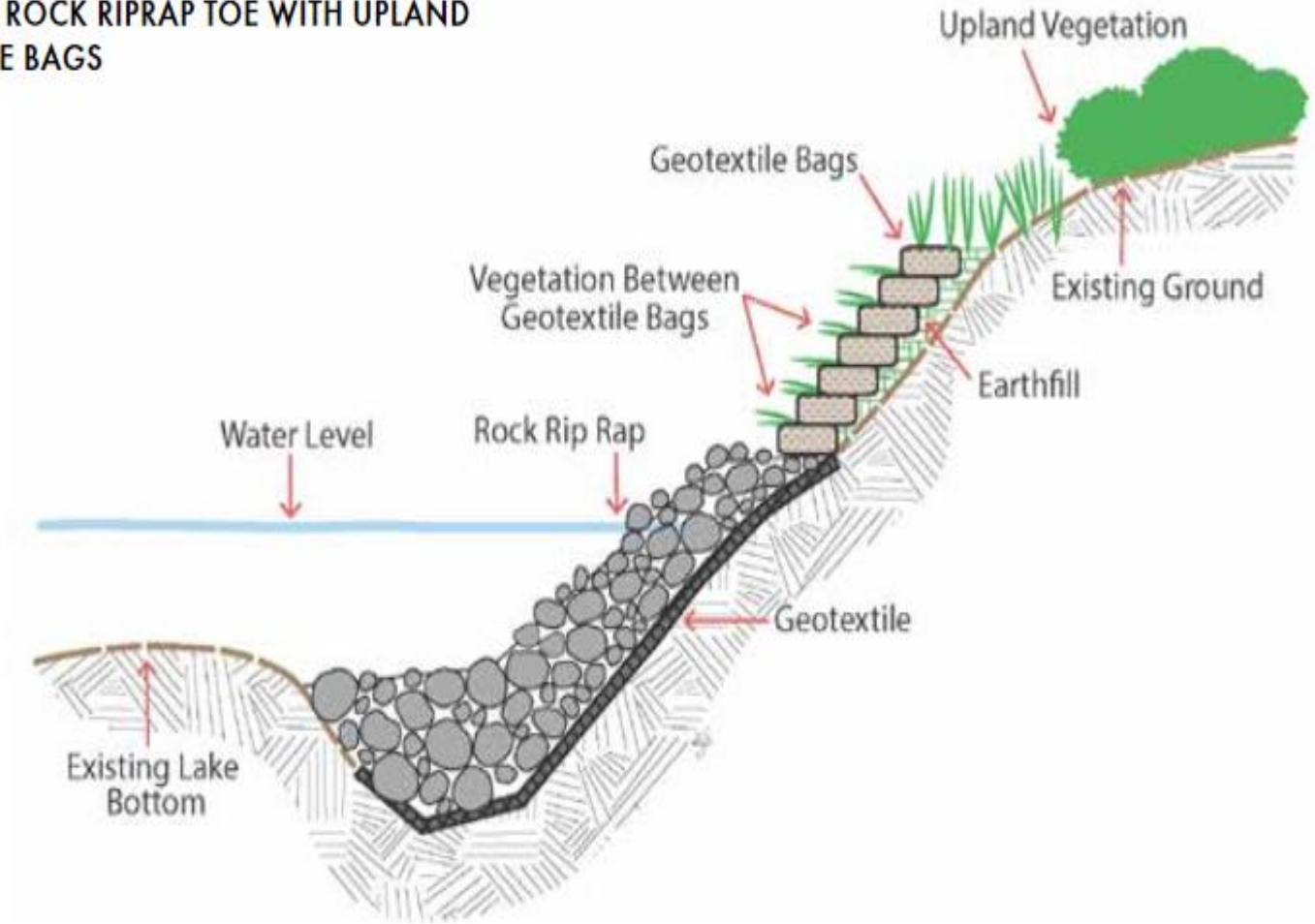
- Ice shoves
- Deer browse
- Labor intensive
- Requires engineering and accessibility
- Time for plants to establish
- Damage and maintenance



Turtle Flambeau Flowage, Iron County WI

# Rock Riprap Toe With Upland Geotextile Bags

FIGURE 11: ROCK RIPRAP TOE WITH UPLAND GEOTEXTILE BAGS





# Rock Riprap Toe With Upland Geotextile Bags-Example

## ROCK RIPRAP TOE WITH UPLAND GEOTEXTILE BAGS

### Appropriate Uses & Benefits

- Steeper slopes
- Quickly establish riparian vegetation
- Effectiveness increases with time
- Smaller areas of unvegetated banks between trees and shrubs
- Best for areas of limited access with existing vegetation
- Environmentally friendly alternative to hardscape retaining walls

### Limitations

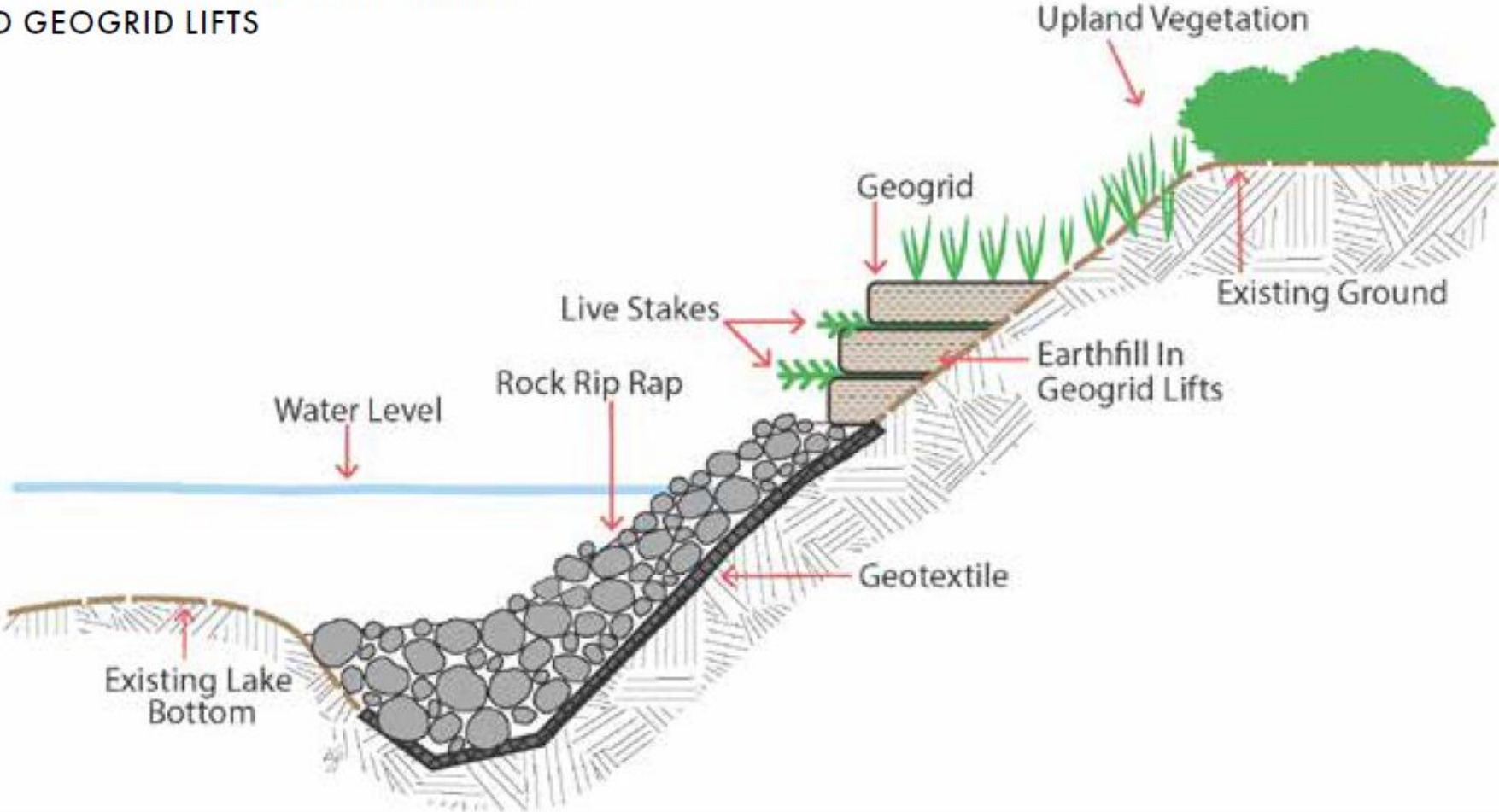
- Expensive
- Labor intensive
- Requires engineering
- Soil-filled bags require site to be accessible



Project on Lake Redstone, Sauk County WI

# Rock Riprap Toe With Upland Vegetated Geogrid Lifts

FIGURE 12: ROCK RIPRAP TOE WITH UPLAND VEGETATED GEOGRID LIFTS



# Rock Riprap Toe With Upland Vegetated Geogrid Lifts- Example

## ROCK RIPRAP TOE WITH UPLAND VEGETATED GEOGRID LIFTS

### Appropriate Uses & Benefits

- Steeper slopes
- Quickly establish riparian vegetation
- Effectiveness increases with time
- Best for large, unvegetated areas
- Environmentally friendly alternative to hardscape retaining walls

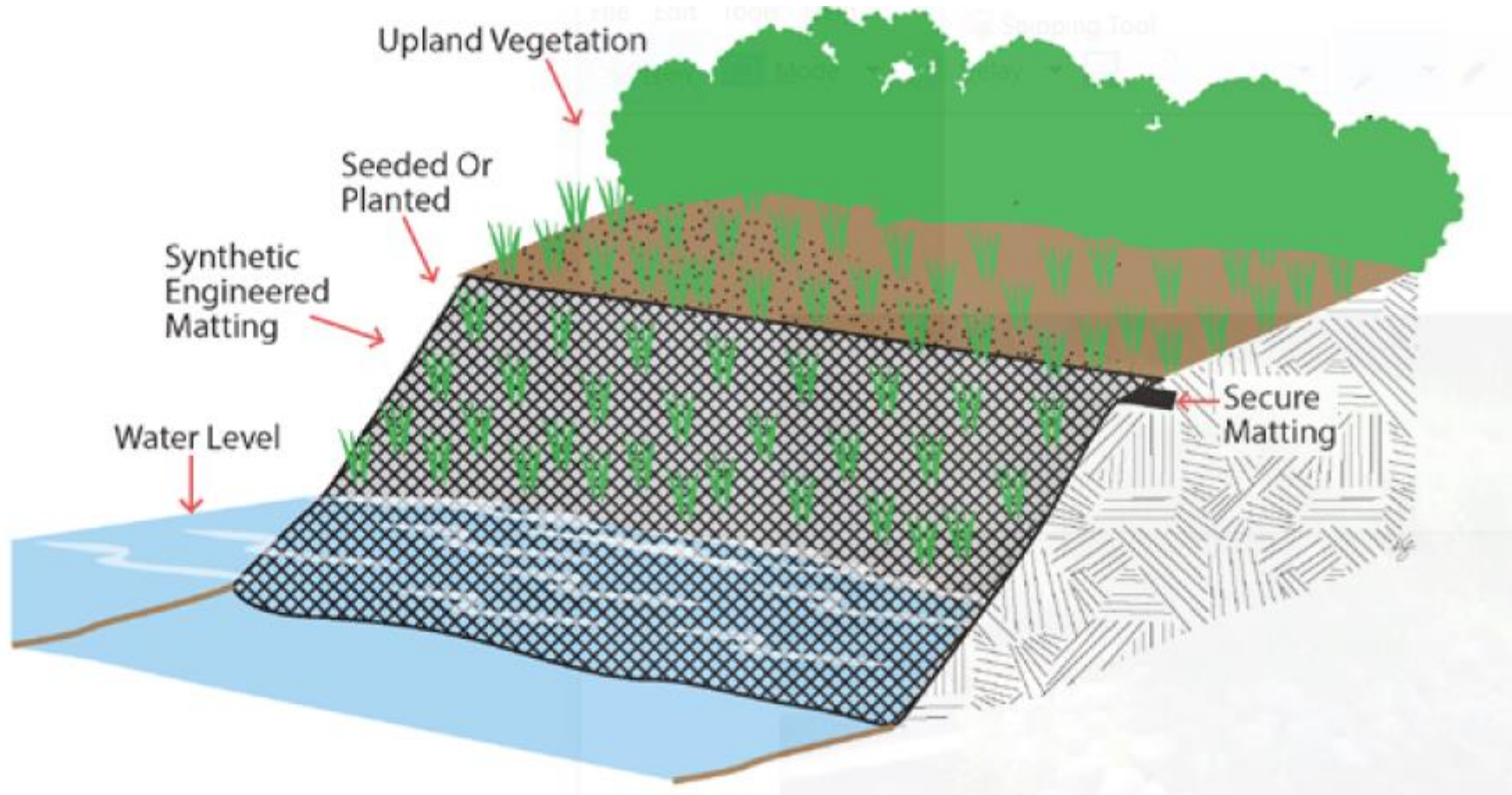
### Limitations

- Cost
- Labor intensive
- Deer browsing issues
- Requires engineering
- Accessibility for fill and materials



Before, during construction, and after one growing season. Plum Lake, Vilas County

# Synthetic Engineered Matting



# Synthetic Engineered Matting-Example

## SYNTHETIC ENGINEERED MATTING

### Appropriate Uses & Benefits

- High traffic areas
- Low to medium slopes
- Small non-motorized watercraft walk in access

### Limitations

- Suggested to combine with other erosion control products
- Potential for wildlife entanglement



Rubber matting, Spirit Flowage,  
Lincoln County

Thick plastic mesh web, Catfish  
Lake, Vilas County

# Sauk County Regulations for Shoreline Work

Before starting any alteration of your shoreline, make sure you have any required permits from the appropriate local municipalities, county government, tribal government, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as needed.

Sauk County Zoning

608-355-3245

WDNR

608-267-3125

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

715-345-7911

# Sauk County Cost Share Funding Program

## Lake Shore Assistance Program

- Applicant must be shoreland landowner in Sauk County.
- Apply at:  
[https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/land\\_conservation/page/1934/costshareapplicationfillable.pdf](https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/land_conservation/page/1934/costshareapplicationfillable.pdf)
- **Deadline for 2023 is November 4th.**
- Cost share funding is limited to 50% of the project cost up to \$2,500 per applicant. Applicants will be ranked verses other applicants
- LRE staff will contact the applicant to set up a site visit and determine project eligibility
- Awarded projects will receive a complementary design, and construction supervision.
- When projects are completed, landowners will be reimbursed.

QUESTIONS?

Mitch McCarthy

Watershed Coordinator

Sauk County Land Resources & Environment

[mitchell.mccarthy@saukcountywi.gov](mailto:mitchell.mccarthy@saukcountywi.gov)

608-355-4836