

It's SHORE Important!

Design your own lakeshore game!



Score your Shoreline Stewardship!

It's SHORE Important!

As a newly awarded lakeshore property owner in 'It's Shore Important,' you'll make key decisions that impact lakes and rivers. Navigate the three zones—Upland, Shoreline, and Aquatic—choosing how to manage buildings, pathways, landscaping, and shoreline features.

Select 3 Cards for the Upland Zone

A Building
A Path
Landscaping Option

Upland Zone

The area away from the water, higher in elevation, and often used for homes, roads, and landscaping.

Select 3 Cards for the Shoreline Zone

Trees
Erosion Control
Water Access

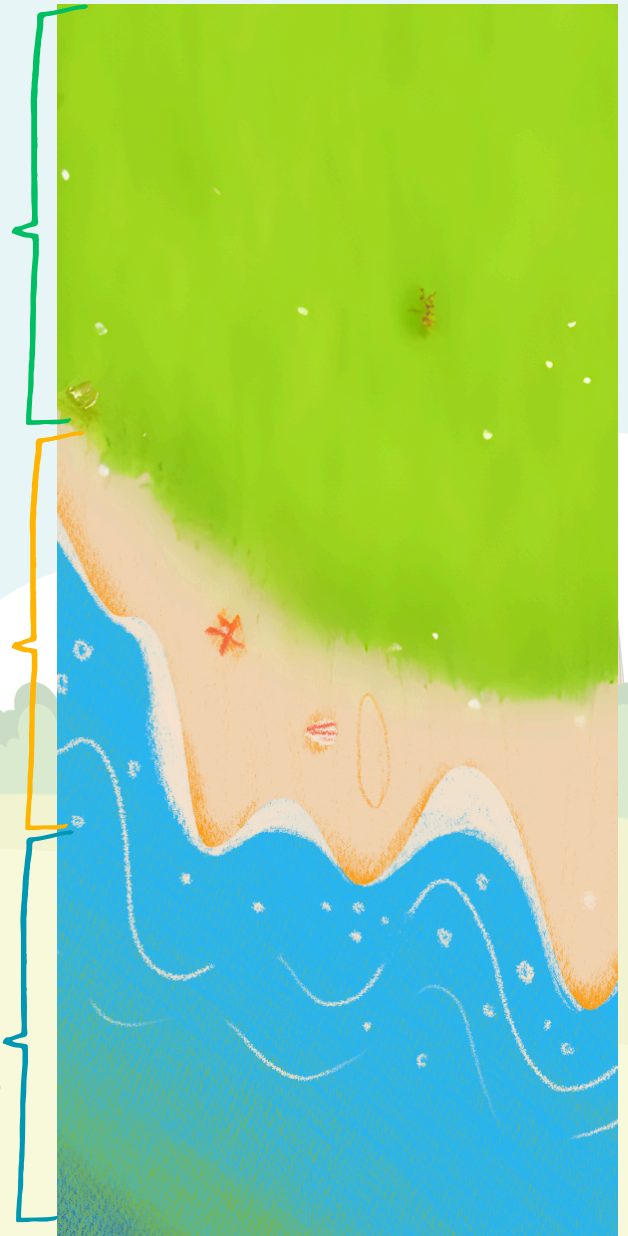
Shoreline Zone

The transition area between land and water, sensitive to erosion and critical for filtering runoff.

Select 5 Cards to go in your Aquatic Zone

Aquatic Zone

The area from the water's edge to about 50 feet into the lake.



Once you're done placing your cards, flip them over and add up your points to get your SHORE SCORE

YOUR SHORE SCORE

BONUS POINTS:

Biodiversity is important for resilient ecosystems. Give yourself **5 POINTS** if you chose **ALL 3** of these cards: **Pondweeds, Wild Rice, AND Bulrushes**

Now that you've designed your dream lakefront, flip your cards, total your score, and check the diagram below to see if you scored **Low, Medium, or High**



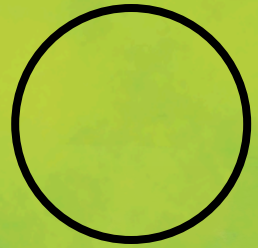
Thank you for protecting and preserving our natural shorelines!

This Game was Developed By:



MINNESOTA
NATURAL
SHORELINE
PARTNERSHIP

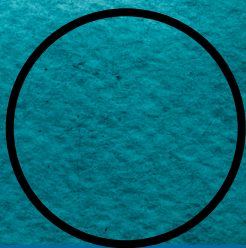
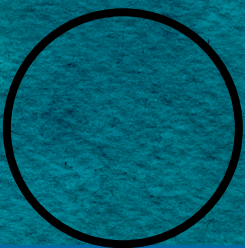
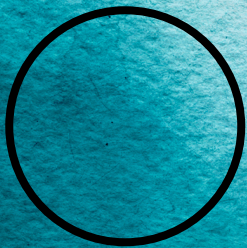
Upland Zone



Shoreline Zone



Aquatic Zone



Rip Rap



Single Tree



Joint Planting



Shady Patch



Native Plant Buffer



Full Forest



Single Tree

Cutting shoreline trees may improve the view, but few trees offers little shade or protection. More trees are needed for a healthy shoreline.

-1 Point

Shady Patch

A shady patch offers some shade, but it's fragmented. Two-thirds canopy cover is needed for full shoreline benefits.

+1 Point

Full Forest

A full canopy of trees on the shoreline provides shade, keeps the soil from washing away, and helps clean the water. Fallen branches also make great homes for fish.

+3 Points

Rip Rap

Rip rap should be used sparingly as it disrupts plant growth, preventing long term erosion control and filtration while causing great disruption to wildlife habitat.

-1 Point

Joint Planting

Joint planting is a great restoration option as it introduces native plants that stabilize the shoreline, improve habitat, and filter runoff.

+2 Points

Native Plant Buffer

Diverse native shoreline plants with deep roots prevent erosion, flooding, and pollution, while pollinator-friendly species like purple coneflower and milkweed add beauty and provide wildlife habitat.

+3 Points



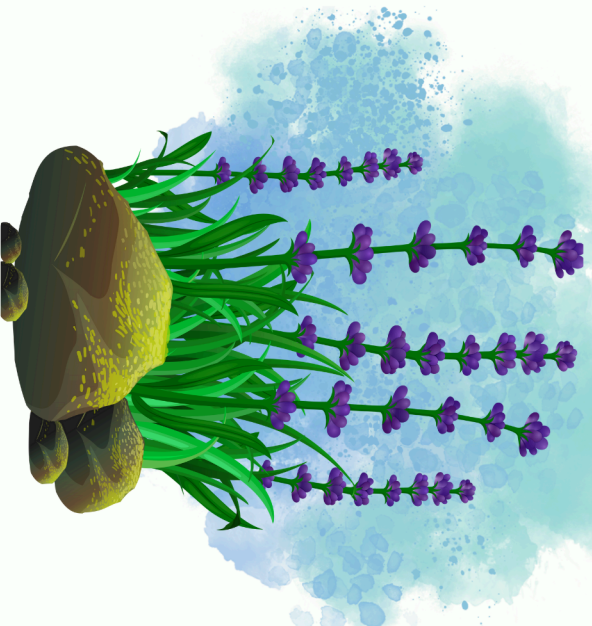
Rex The Family Dog



Sandy Lakebed



Purple Loosestrife



Sandy Beach

An unnatural sandy beach harms wildlife by removing natural plants and habitat, leading to erosion and less food and shelter for animals

=1 Point

Rex The Family Dog

Pet waste can harm water quality by introducing harmful bacteria and nutrients that can lead to algae blooms and other issues, affecting aquatic life and making the water unsafe.

=1 Point

Big Dock

A large dock and cleared aquatic plants disrupt habitats, reduce vital plant cover, and lead to increased shoreline erosion, damaging the overall health of the ecosystem.

0 Points

Sandy Lakebed

A sandy lakebed allows invasive species to spread and harms the natural ecosystem. Without native plant beds, fish lose vital areas for breeding, feeding, and shelter.

(=1 Point)

Small Dock + Floating Plants

A small dock with floating plants and minimal alterations preserves wildlife habitat, reduces shoreline erosion, and maintains the area's natural beauty, all while still allowing access.

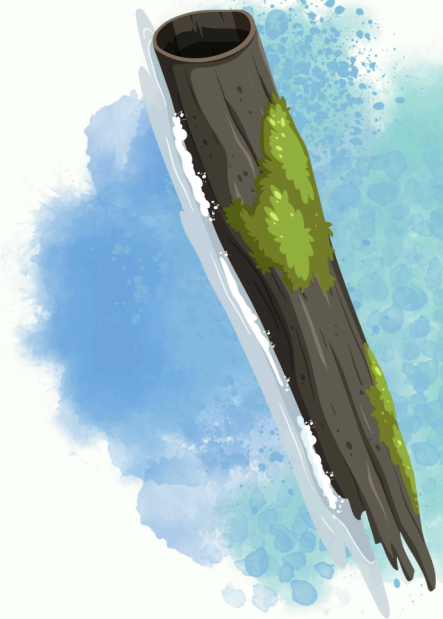
+3 Points

Purple Loosestrife

Aquatic Invader Alert! Purple Loosestrife, while pretty, is invasive and illegal to transport in Minnesota

=2 Points

Downed Wood



Pondweeds



Wild Rice



Bulrushes



Turtle



Loon Family



Downed Wood

Downed wood in the water provides wildlife with hiding spots and food sources. It also helps stabilize the shoreline and adds organic matter that supports a healthy ecosystem.

+1 Point

Bulrushes

Bulrushes thrive in shallower water, with dense roots that prevent shoreline erosion and absorb wave energy.

+1 Point

Pondweeds

Pondweeds grow in deeper water and provide important shelter and food for fish and insects while stabilizing sediments.

+1 Point

Turtle

Turtles need logs to bask on. Sunbathing is essential for their health!

+3 points ONLY if you also

selected "Downed wood" in

the aquatic zone to help

provide turtle habitat

Wild Rice

Wild rice grows in shallow, slow-moving water, helping to filter nutrients, stabilize sediment, and offering a vital food source for wildlife.

+1 Point

Loon Family

Loons nest in natural shorelines and need clear water to hunt.

+3 Points ONLY if you

selected Natural Buffer in

shoreline zone to help

provide loon habitat

Cabin



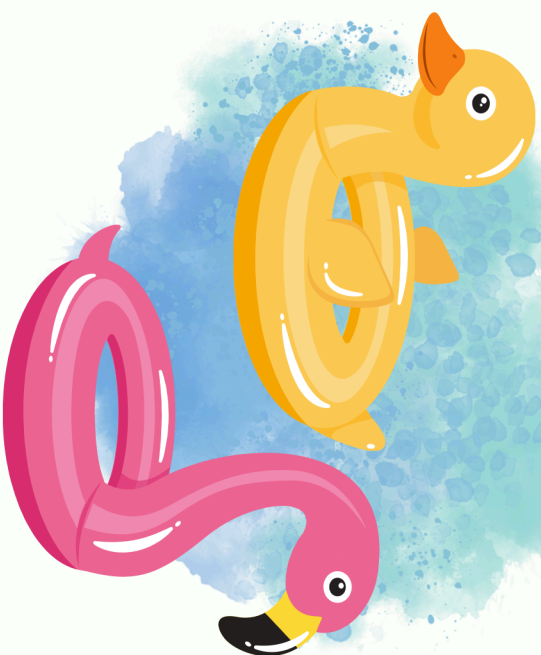
Jet Ski



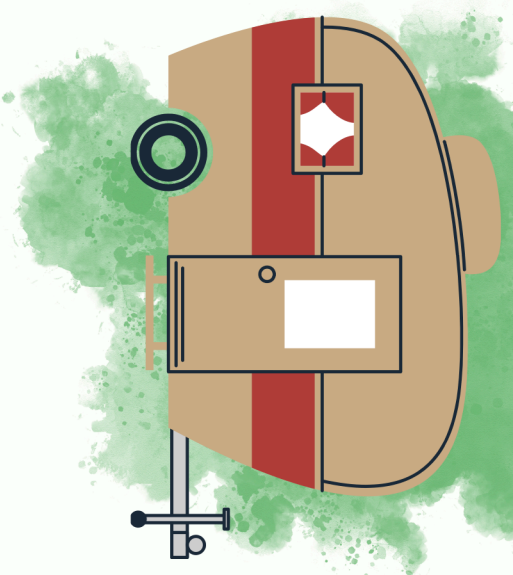
House



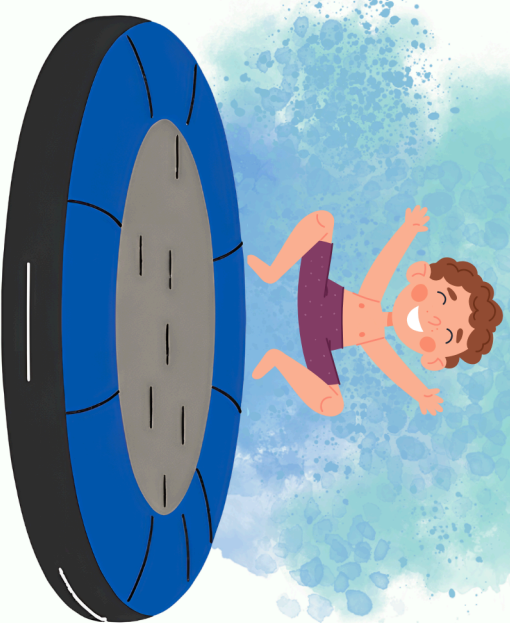
Floating Toys



Trailer



Trampoline



Cabin

A cabin has less impervious surface, but often includes a septic system. Poor runoff management can impact water quality.

+1 Point

+2 if far from shoreline, +1 if mid-distance, -1 if close

Jet Ski

Enjoy watercraft safely by using high-wake vehicles only in deeper water, away from the shoreline, to prevent damage from large waves.

-1 Point

House

Houses have large roofs and driveways, creating impervious surfaces. Septic systems can affect water quality if not maintained.

0 Points

+2 if far from shoreline, +1 if mid-distance, -1 if close

Floating Toys

Floating toys are a safe way for children to enjoy the lake. Always make sure an adult is watching when kids are swimming

+1 Point

Trailer

A trailer has the less impervious surface and doesn't require a septic system, reducing its impact.

+2 Points

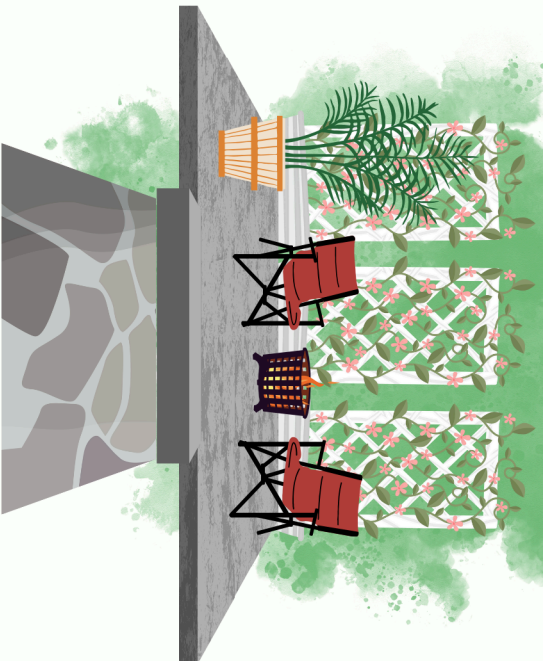
+2 if far from shoreline, +1 if mid-distance, -1 if close

Trampoline

While fun for water play, trampolines do not benefit the water. It's crucial to clean & dry these structures to prevent the spread of aquatic hitchhikers.

0 Points

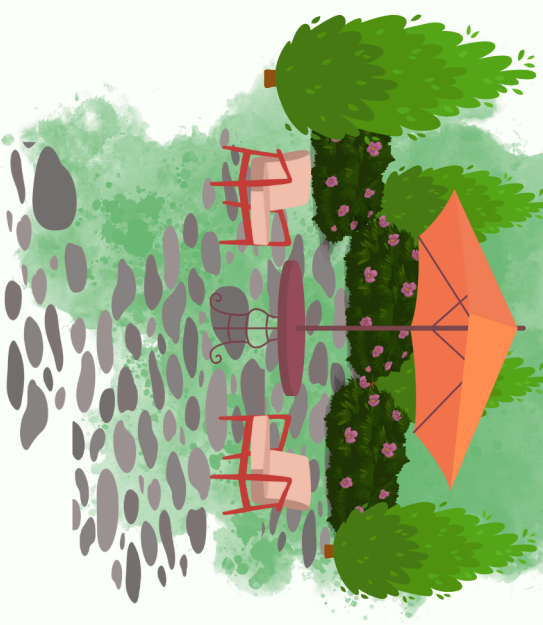
Pavement



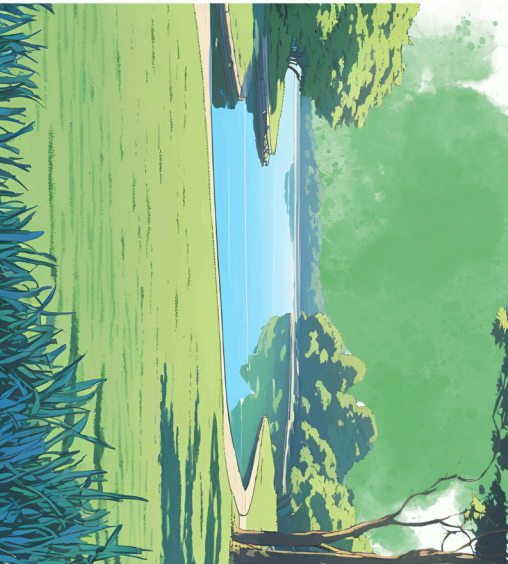
Natural Path



Stone path



Turfgrass Lawn



Varied Vegetation



Native Rain Garden



Pavement

Pavement creates a lot of hard surfaces where water can't soak in. This can lead to more runoff and pollution in nearby water sources, and it can cause erosion and water quality problems.

-1Point

Turfgrass Lawn

Turfgrass lawns require frequent watering and chemicals, increasing runoff and pollution while offering minimal environmental benefits or wildlife habitat.

-1Point

Natural Path

A natural path, made of materials like dirt or gravel, allows water to soak in and reduces runoff. This helps prevent erosion and keeps nearby water sources cleaner.

+2Points

Varied Vegetation

Varied vegetation provides moderate erosion control and stormwater absorption with less maintenance than turfgrass, improving water quality and supporting some wildlife.

+1Point

Stone path

A stone path has some impervious surfaces but allows partial water infiltration between stones.

+1Point

Native Rain Garden

Native rain gardens capture and filter stormwater, reducing pollution and erosion while creating habitats for pollinators and significantly enhancing water quality.

+2Points