



Raising awareness in Val-des-Lacs' shorelines Let's take care of our home!

Let's take care of the riparian areas of Val-des-Lacs

Welcome home to Val-des-Lacs, where each riparian strip is a precious ecosystem, filled with native plants making up a habitat teeming with food for local wildlife, which must be preserved. These areas, along our lakes and rivers, play a crucial role in maintaining the health of our waterways and supporting their biodiversity, attracting birds, butterflies and fish.

Why preserve riparian areas?

Riparian strips are part of wetlands, which are among the most precious but most fragile environments on the planet. They play a crucial role not only in the fight against climate change, but also in the natural filtration of runoff, nutrients (like phosphate and nitrate) and pollutants (like phosphorus). They therefore ensure the preservation of water quality, but also the stabilization and reduction of bank erosion.



In addition, the shading created by the plants reduces the heating of the water, limiting the growth of algae.

By maintaining a good riparian strip in its natural state from the water's edge (or high water mark) towards the center of your land, you not only contribute to the health of our environment, but also to ensure sustainability of your leisure activities, such as fishing, boating and swimming.

Regulations and advice for the management of riparian zones

If your shoreline is not left in its natural state for a distance of 10 to 15 meters from the shoreline, it is essential to stop mowing your lawn and let both the grass and the native local plants grow naturally. If the riparian strip is slow to grow back on its own, revegetate it using native riparian plants authorized for the revegetation of the bank in Val-des-Lacs, available from nurseries or gardening centers. If you have pine or larch trees near the shore, it is normal that riparian



strip does not grow, or only very little. For more information, consult the attached document or tables 10-C-1 to 6 of regulation no. 367-02 in the zoning by-law, via the Val-des-Lacs website. To help you, the municipality of Val-des-Lacs also provides free plants once a year.

Access to the shore

Access to the bank is the only place where it is authorized to mow the lawn within the boundary of the riparian strip. Each lot is entitled to one or more accesses, but the combined width of these must not exceed 5 meters. To limit erosion and enrichment of the body of water, it is recommended to arrange the access in a winding or diagonal manner. This allows runoff water to pass through vegetation and be filtered before reaching the water body.





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Planting in a riparian strip

Before doing work in your shoreline, you must apply for a permit, and before planting in your shoreline, do not remove the lawn already present, and do not add compost, fertilizer or mulch. Then follow these steps :

- At least in the first 5 meters, staggered plant a minimum of three layers of vegetation with a maximum distance of 1 meter between shrubs.
- For trees, maintain a distance of approximately 5 meters.
- Dig a hole larger than the root ball (about twice as wide and slightly deeper).
- Loosen the soil in the hole if necessary.
- Place the plant in the hole and replace the soil, forming a small hem to retain water. Do not add anything, leave everything in its natural state.
- Water carefully to ensure plants are established.



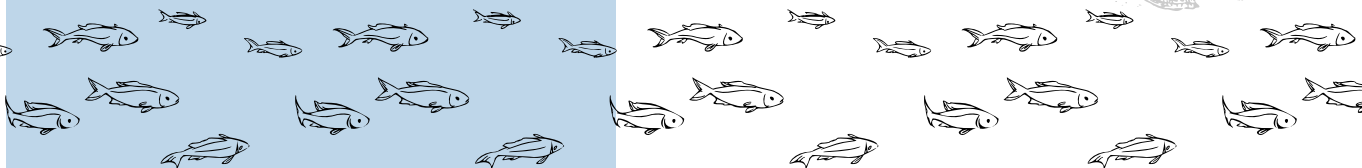
Maintaining your plantation

To ensure the health of your shoreline without disturbing the ecological balance :

- Water new plantings lightly for the first few weeks, depending on needs and weather conditions.
- If necessary during the first year, clear weeds around the plants by hand to encourage their growth.
- To avoid enriching the water with unwanted nutrients, do not add compost or fertilizer to your riparian strip. The same goes for pesticides or insecticides.
- You can add protection around your plants to prevent beavers or deer from nibbling on your plants.

In addition to renaturalizing the shore, what can be done to protect the body of water?

- Make sure your septic system is properly maintained to avoid contamination of ground and surface water.
- Avoid using chemical fertilizers, pesticides or insecticides on your lawn. If necessary, use natural compost, but do not put anything on your shoreline.



Limit contamination of lakes

To protect our bodies of water and your land in Val-des-Lacs, it is crucial to prevent the introduction of invasive exotic species. Before entering the lake and after each exit, clean your boat to eliminate any unwanted organisms. This helps maintain the ecological balance of our waters and preserves our leisure activities.

Commit to the future and conservation

In Val-des-Lacs, we are all responsible for preserving our shorelines. Respecting the regulations in force is a concrete gesture to protect our common natural heritage and its wild beauty. Together, we can ensure that these spaces remain havens of biodiversity that make us proud and contribute to our quality of life.

