

FRIENDS OF NORTHERN LAKE CHAMPLAIN

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SHORELINE STABILIZATION for CLEANER WATERS

Causes of erosion

Designs for stabilizing the shoreline

Shoreline erosion around bodies of water is a natural process that brings both benefits and damages. Some of the benefits include the creation and resupply of natural beaches, and the creation of habitat for fish and wildlife.

When erosion is severe or too close to structures, it can result in property loss, structural damage to roadways and/or houses, and poor water quality. Some-times erosion becomes a problem when roads or structures are built unknown-ingly in erosion prone areas.

Traditional shoreline protection methods, such as seawalls and embankments of large stones, can be very effective. However, many such methods are expensive and can have detrimental, unintended environmental consequences.

In the Lake Champlain Basin, there has been a significant effort to find natural, cost effective processes, such as bioengineering, that use live plantings, as well as other methods to modify the processes of shoreline erosion.

The Shoreline Stabilization Handbook on the website of Northwest Regional Planning Commission (www.nrpcvt.com/shoreline_handbook.pdf) offers information on the causes of shoreline erosion; the various methods used for providing shoreline erosion control; and the planning, design, installation and maintenance of a shoreline stabilization project

Or for more information, please contact Friends of Northern Lake Champlain, using the Contact Us page on our website:

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