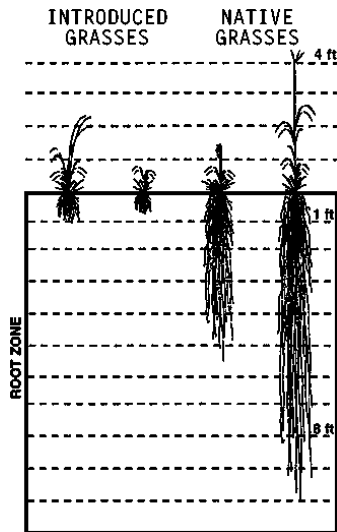


Bank Erosion

The Roots of Prevention

Plant roots can play a key role in holding soil in place. Turf roots are not long enough to hold the soil properly. Longer rooted plants have better capacity to do this. Use of long-rooted plants on bank slopes and along bank edges can help prevent erosion. Grasses & flowers native to Minnesota tend to have much longer roots than turf grass.



Other plants recommended are long-rooted perennials such as hostas, daylilies, and possibly shrubs such as creeping juniper or red-osier dogwood.

Credits

Photos: Coon Creek Watershed District staff

Grass Graphic: modified MPCA, 2000.

WATER IQ #3

® 2008



Coon Creek Watershed District

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Tel: 763.755.0975

Mission

To manage groundwater and surface water drainage systems to prevent property damage, maintain hydrologic balance, and to protect water quality for the safety and enjoyment of citizens and the preservation and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

Coon Creek Watershed District

WATER IQ #3

Bank Erosion



Third in a Water Information Quest (IQ) Series by Coon Creek Watershed District

Tel: 763.755.0975

Bank Erosion...

...got you in a Slump?



Mowing to edge. Bank is slumping.

If your property borders a creek or ditch, do you see severe bank erosion or collapse (or both!)? Is this happening to your neighbor, friend, or relative? Maybe you are concerned about property loss.

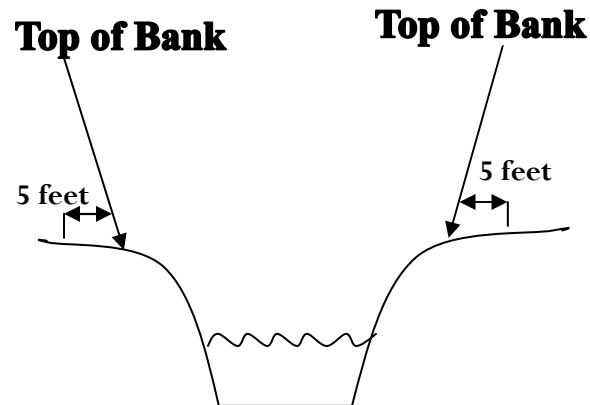
Surprisingly, lawn care can play an important role in preventing – or increasing – the erosion. How? Since erosion is basically a failure of the soil to stay in place, plant roots can play a key role in holding the soil. Here in Anoka County our soils tend to be *very* sandy, and so very easily eroded. The eroded soil falls into the water, decreasing water quality.

The soil that washes downstream will eventually be deposited on the streambed, a natural behavior of a waterway in adjusting to water flow changes. However, with increases in flow rates, more soil is eroded and deposited, over and over, until the carrying capacity of the channel drops. The water can then flow over its banks causing flooding.

What You Can Do

1. If you are *not* the property owner of the eroded site, please report the site location to Coon Creek Watershed District. Your call will be logged into our database for a site visit.
2. Property Owners: **do not mow within 5 or more feet of the top of the bank.** The grass will then grow longer roots that will help hold the soil.

If mowing continues, more erosion will likely occur and will cost more \$\$ to repair.



3. Property Owners: If the erosion is severe, please notify [Coon Creek Watershed District: 763.755.0975](tel:763.755.0975).

Give the address of the eroded site and your contact information. Your call will be logged into our database for a site visit. It may qualify for a District grant or project.

Then What Happens?

Within a few weeks, District staff will visit the site to examine the erosion. A determination will be made as to the severity of the erosion.

Bank Stabilization

If the erosion is severe enough to require engineering, it is considered for approval by our Board of Managers as a District Bank Stabilization Project.

1. The property owner will receive a letter regarding the need for stabilization.
2. A District professional will talk with the property owner about engineering options for stabilizing the bank.
3. Property-owner responsibilities and cost-share options will be also discussed with the owner in person or by phone.
4. Potential projects are then brought before the Board of Managers at a regular meeting (held 2 times per month).
5. If your bank stabilization project is approved by the Board of Managers, District staff will work closely with you to coordinate a schedule.

763.755.0975