

Mille Lacs SWCD Compass 2022

The goal of Mille Lacs Compass work is to build long-lasting, on-going relationships with landowners that have a shared willingness to address shoreline erosion and stormwater runoff. We are working toward building trust with landowners who sincerely care about doing what they can do to protect Mille Lacs Lake. These landowners have shared their Compass values with neighboring landowners, allowing us to begin building a network of people interested in taking action to protect Mille Lacs Lake.

This year we have been visiting with people about what is happening on their shoreline and about what they would like to see happen on their shoreline. These visits answer questions like; “What are they able to contribute to making their shoreline the best it can be?” and “How can the SWCD help them?” Site visits with landowners revolve around Do-It-Yourself Best Management Practices (BMP) with on-going technical advice to establish no-mow buffers and other shoreline BMPs. Larger projects that may need engineering assistance are investigated and options are shared with the landowners.

Conversations with landowners in 2022 resulted in:

- Three site visits with new landowners, two were referred by active Compass members. Two of these landowners were already working to develop no-mow buffers on their shore. A site visit was conducted by Technical Service Area III engineers to advise on stormwater control solutions at one of these locations.
- Four new Shoreland Stewardship Plans were written. Two resulted in site visits with Technical Service Area III engineers to investigate complicated BMPs.
- Many return site visits with Compass members to develop new projects, provide technical assistance for on-going projects and receive referrals to neighbors who are interested in Compass.
- Attended Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group sponsored outreach events designed to bring Compass members together to share resources and talk about the work they are doing on their shorelines.
- Three landowners are working with neighbors to encourage them to install protective shoreline BMPs.
- An on-going relationship with a landowner has resulted in a referral that lead to a site visit, a no-mow buffer and a Shoreland Stewardship Plan. These

neighbors will be working with other neighbors in 2023 to develop a neighborhood of continuous shoreline buffer.



No-mow buffer on Mille Lacs Lake



Neighbors on Mille Lacs discussing their shoreline no-mow buffers