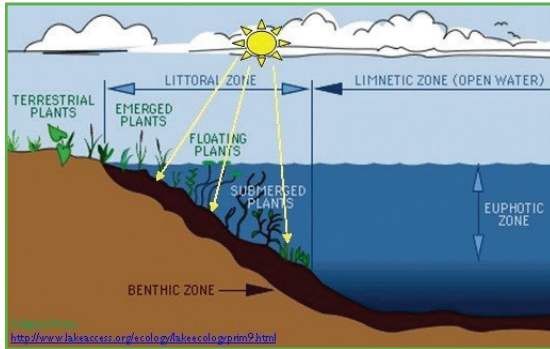


## WHAT IS A LITTORAL?

A littoral zone is the near shore area of a waterbody extending from the high water line to the farthest spot that sunlight still penetrates to the bottom soils. This zone may or may not contain plant life but is the ideal region for aquatic plants to grow. Littoral zones are present in both fresh and saltwater environments.



## WHY IS A LITTORAL ZONE SO IMPORTANT?

Your stormwater pond acts as a sink that captures stormwater runoff as well as pollutants, such as fertilizer or pet waste, from the surrounding area. Plants in the littoral zone can improve water quality by removing excess nutrients and pollutants in stormwater runoff. Aquatic plant growth will improve water clarity, prevent algal blooms, stabilize lake banks to prevent erosion and provide habitat for wildlife such as fish, amphibians, and birds.



## MISSION STATEMENT

Protect, preserve, and restore our water and other natural resources through monitoring, pollution prevention, education, and remediation programs.



**Live Green. Save Blue. Report Pollution**

2685 South Horseshoe Drive  
Suite 103 | Naples, Florida 34104

**239-252-2502**

[pollution\\_control@countyfl.gov](mailto:pollution_control@countyfl.gov)

[www.LiveGreenSaveBlue.com](http://www.LiveGreenSaveBlue.com)

## LITTORAL ZONES

What Are They and What Do They Do?

[www.LiveGreenSaveBlue.com](http://www.LiveGreenSaveBlue.com)





## I WAS TOLD MY POND NEEDS A LSPA, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

A littoral shelf planting area (LSPA) is the sloped lake bank planted with aquatic vegetation within the littoral zone, the nearshore area where light penetrates and aquatic plants can grow.

Collier County Land Development Code Section 3.05.10 requires that all newly excavated stormwater management ponds must have a LSPA.

## WHAT IF I JUST WANT TO INSTALL PLANTS AROUND MY POND?

Do-It-Yourselfers can utilize the “General Guidelines for Planting a Littoral Zone” found on [www.dontoverfeed.com](http://www.dontoverfeed.com). then select the “New! Information on the littoral area of your pond” weblink at the top. Keep in mind that each pond is unique and a good design depends on bank slope, water level fluctuations, exposure to sun and existing water quality.

If you live in a community within a Homeowner’s Association (HOA), it is advised that you obtain permission from the board and make it a community effort. Need help? We’ll create a presentation catered to the needs of your community’s stormwater pond, just call our education and outreach staff at 239-252-2502 to schedule.

## HOW DO I BUILD A LITTORAL PLANTING SHELF?

Check with your lake management company, landscaper or developer. Trying to construct a littoral planting shelf on your own may prove quite challenging. The “Design Guidelines for County required Littoral Shelf Planting Area (LSPA)” is a good resource for contractors or communities. Visit [www.dontoverfeed.com](http://www.dontoverfeed.com), and select the “New! Information on the littoral area of your pond” weblink.

## CAN I REMOVE THE PLANTS IN MY POND?

Exotic vegetation can and should be removed from retention ponds on a regular basis. Chapter 5B-64.011 of the Florida Administrative Code outlines prohibited exotic plants. If you currently have a stormwater management pond with a required LSPA, then native vegetation cannot be removed without a modification to the existing permit(s). To determine permit status or modify an existing permit please contact the Environmental Permitting staff at 239-252-2497.

Remember, plant growth in and around your pond will increase water quality, provide habitat for birds, reduce algae blooms, and decrease the need for chemical treatments of the pond. Let the plants grow!

## CAN I CHANGE THE PLANTS THAT GROW IN MY POND?

Plantings in an LSPA were installed in accordance with permit construction plan specifications. Deviating from the approved plans would require a modification of the existing permit(s). To determine permit status or modify an existing permit please contact the Environmental Permitting staff at 239-252-2497.

## DO LITTORAL SHELF PLANTING AREAS REQUIRE MAINTENANCE?

In many cases, minimizing maintenance is the best way to manage littoral plantings, allowing the plants along the shoreline to grow and propagate without mowing or chemicals. Just like any landscaping some ongoing maintenance will be required. For example, additional plantings may be required if the installed vegetation doesn’t thrive or grow to the 80% shoreline coverage that is expected within two years of LSPA installation.

Lower maintenance and increase water quality by creating a 10-foot “Low Maintenance Zone”, an area planted and managed to minimize the need for fertilizing, mowing, and watering. For more information check out the Florida-Friendly fertilizer ordinance at [www.dontoverfeed.com](http://www.dontoverfeed.com).

