

# LAKE SUPERIOR SHORELINE PROJECTS: FIND THE RIGHT PROFESSIONAL

Most Lake Superior shoreline projects need help from a coastal professional. Before consulting a professional, it is important to recognize that erosion is a natural process and what is your risk tolerance. Think about your project goals and do a little research. Being prepared will set your project on the path to success.

## RESOURCES

- [Living on the Coast: Protecting Investments in Shore Property on the Great Lakes](http://publications.aqua.wisc.edu) (publications.aqua.wisc.edu)
- [Wisconsin Sea Grant's Working with Engineers and Contractors on Shore Protection Projects](http://publications.aqua.wisc.edu) (publications.aqua.wisc.edu)
- [DNR Restore Your Shore](http://mndnr.gov/rys) (mndnr.gov/rys)
- [Systems Approach to Geomorphic Engineering](http://sagecoast.org) (sagecoast.org)

## FIRST STEPS



### Set goals for your project

What is the purpose of your project? For example, you may want to address erosion or maintain access to your beach. **A clear project goal will help you understand your options.**



### Research your options

**Identify the projects, strategies or designs that can meet your goals.** This will help determine the professional that you might need for your project.

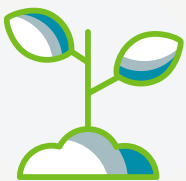


### Seek advice

Contact your local Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) or consult your Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Area Hydrologist. They can help you understand your options and identify next steps.

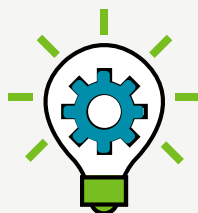
## WHO SHOULD I CONSULT FOR MY PROJECT?

That depends on the complexity of your project. Your project may need design help, special equipment or skills for installation. Every coastal professional offers different services based on their skills and experience.



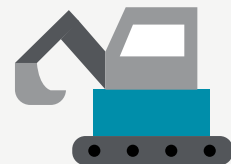
**Restoration specialists** are ecologists, contractors and/or landscape designers. They use **nature-based techniques to restore coastal habitats.**

Restoration specialists may charge hourly for consultation work or based on project scope.



**Coastal engineers** have specialized training and experience **working in coastal environments.**

They are licensed professional engineers. Engineering firms generally charge by the hour and costs can range from \$100 to \$250 per hour.



**Marine or coastal contractors** have experience with coastal projects. They have experience constructing structures in the water and/or **working underwater.** Contracting firms charge based on the project scope.

# CONSULT A COASTAL PROFESSIONAL

It's important to find an experienced coastal professional to assist with your shoreline stabilization project. Seek recommendations, do your research and ask questions.



## WHERE DO I FIND COASTAL PROFESSIONALS?

### Native Plant Contractors and Suppliers

- **DNR Native Plant Suppliers, Landscapers, and Restoration Consultants** ([mndnr.gov/gardens/nativeplants/suppliers.html](http://mndnr.gov/gardens/nativeplants/suppliers.html))
- **Midwest Invasive Plant Network's Ecological Service Providers** ([mipn.org](http://mipn.org))

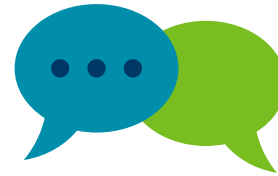
### Coastal Engineers and Contractors

- **American Society of Civil Engineers: Duluth Chapter** ([sections.asce.org/duluth](http://sections.asce.org/duluth))
- **Duluth Seaway Port Authority - Port Services Directory** ([duluthport.com](http://duluthport.com))
- **WI Sea Grant's Great Lakes coastal engineering firms and contractors** ([seagrant.wisc.edu](http://seagrant.wisc.edu))
- **Academy of Coastal, Ocean, Port, & Navigation Engineers** ([acopne.org](http://acopne.org))
- **American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota** ([acecmn.org](http://acecmn.org))



## Interview Professionals

- Consult with several professionals and get quotes to compare services and costs.
- Talk with each professional about their experience and expertise in coastal environments.
- Discuss specifics about your project. What will the project look like? What materials will be used? What is the timeline and cost?
- Determine what permits you need. Many firms will apply for permits on your behalf.



## Get Recommendations

- Speak to any neighbors or friends that have had similar projects done on their property.
- Look for projects completed in your area. Identify the companies and professionals involved.
- Talk to your local planning, SWCD, or parks department, ask if they have recommendations.
- Look at reviews and credentials for any professional you are considering.



## Protect Yourself

- Ensure that any professional you work with is licensed and insured (bonded).
- Discuss whether your engineer or contractor offers any warranty for their work.
- Have a detailed and signed contract before work begins.