



## Rivendell's Natural Shorelines – Exciting Progress Our Changing Shorelines Help Control Erosion and Runoff

By the Ponds & Preserves Committee

[Woodlands Word – April 2021]

3.11.21

Stroll around Rivendell and take note of our changing pond shorelines as they continue to evolve and control erosion. Rivendell Natural Shorelines are now around all ponds in our community. The community standard is a trimmed 3-foot LMZ (low-maintenance, no-mow zone) around all ponds, along with shoreline aquatic plants.

Our HOA (RCA), own and have title to our ponds that are managed in compliance with Sarasota County and SWFWMD as part of our stormwater system. Erosion damage has been visible on most ponds, so there was urgency associated with getting it under control. Based on respected evidence, these shoreline changes improve the health of our ponds, enhance wildlife habitat, help control erosion, and reduce the need for costly engineered remediation (dredging and shoreline rebuilding).



(Bob Frank photo)

LMZs (low-maintenance, no-mow zones) and aquatic plants work together to create our “**Rivendell Natural Shorelines.**” Started in 2019, LMZs are now installed on all our ponds to control erosion by stabilizing the banks, keeping soil in place, and absorbing excess nutrients and runoff. Native aquatic plants – **Pickerelweed, Duck Potato, & Spike Rush** with deep roots are planted on ponds visible from streets and will be installed on all other ponds over the next few years. Plant clusters have already started to spread along the shorelines and will continue to do so. Together - LMZs and aquatic plants are an effective treatment to control erosion, filter out pollutants, and provide habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife – keeping nature in balance.



**How You Can Help.** Please follow County guidelines for responsible fertilizer and irrigation practices. Do not apply fertilizer from June 1 to Sept. 30. Irrigate your lawn on your assigned day, and only if needed. Reduce water usage where possible. Keep our wildlife wild – never feed, harm or approach any wildlife.

**Your Actions Make a Difference – and are Being Recognized!** Rivendell is being recognized by the County and other communities as a leader in protecting our watershed resources. Be proud of our community and help keep it vibrant and strong for our wildlife friends and each other. Healthier ponds and preserves attract more buyers to our community, increase our quality of life, and keep property values strong. **Click to read more about our County recognition:** [NEST-Rivendell](#)

**Our “Rivendell Natural Shoreline” at Egret Pond. LMZs and aquatic plants work together to control erosion and excess runoff.**

(Paul Remy photo)

