

# Land Use Cover Types

(1) Open Space; (2) Shrub/Grass/Sedge Community; (3) Woods.

**Open Space:** Lawns, parks, golf courses, cemeteries, etc. Ground cover composed primarily of bluegrass and other typical, shallow-rooting lawn grasses and forbs. May include trees and/or shrubs.



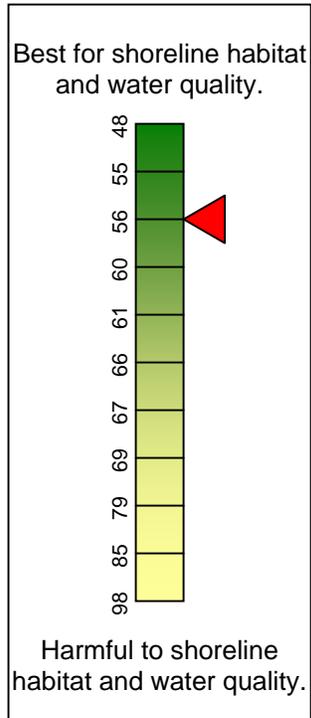
**Shrub/Grass/Sedge Community:** Dominated by a mixture of deep-rooting, native shrubs, grasses, sedges, and perennial forbs. Trees may be present but are not dominant.



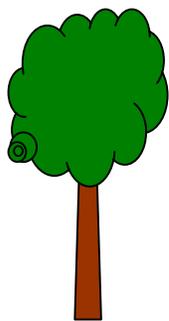
**Woods:** Stands that consist of one or more tree species with an understory of shrubs and immature trees. Ground cover consists primarily of native perennials and/or forest litter. The ratio of shrubs to mature trees is 1.5:1 or greater. Typical species composition and structure are those described by Curtis in *The Vegetation of Wisconsin* for both northern and southern forests.



# How to Use This Index



Use this scale to rank the various land uses in terms of **runoff potential**. The closer the red arrow ◀ is to the top of the scale the better that particular land use is at **reducing storm water runoff**.



Mature trees



Immature trees



Shrubs



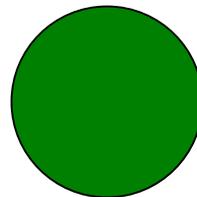
Native sedges/grasses



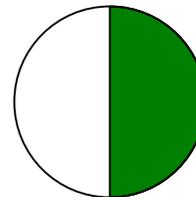
Lawn/sod

These graphics show the **types of vegetation** a given land use is likely to contain.

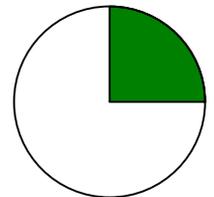
The “pies” indicate the **amount of ground covered** by a particular quality of land use. For instance, land uses qualified as “fair” will have 50-75% of the ground covered and will be illustrated by a ½ pie: 



**Good**  
> 75% coverage



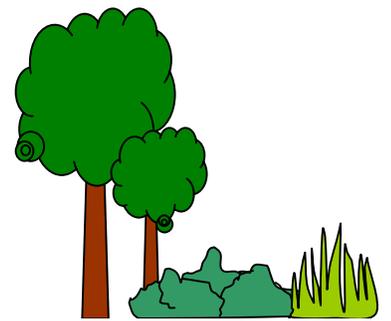
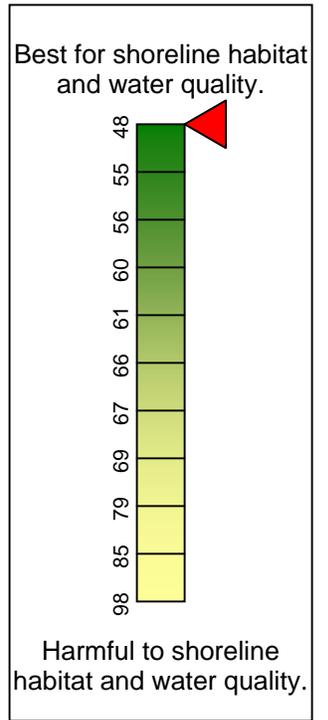
**Fair**  
50-75% coverage



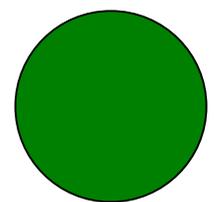
**Poor**  
< 50% coverage

**Shrub/grass/sedge** (Deep-rooted, native shrubs/grass/sedge)  
Good condition:

Ground cover is greater than 75%.



**Vegetative Structure**



**Soil Coverage**

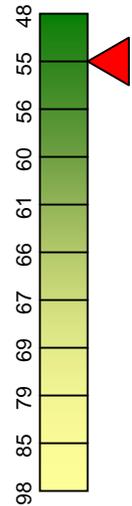
## Woods

Good condition:

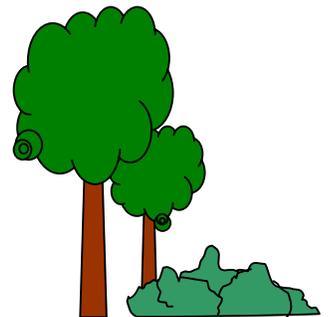
Ground cover (including forest litter) is greater than 75%.



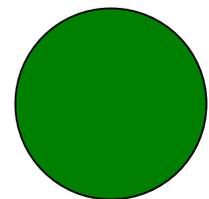
Best for shoreline habitat and water quality.



Harmful to shoreline habitat and water quality.



**Vegetative Structure**



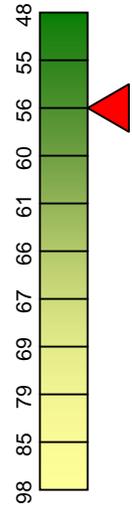
**Soil Coverage**

**Shrub/grass/sedge** (Deep-rooted, native shrubs/grass/sedge)  
Fair condition:

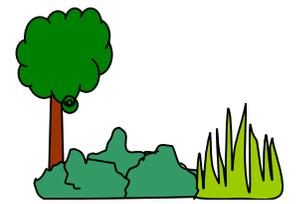
Ground cover is 50%-75%.



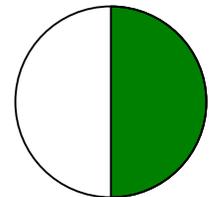
Best for shoreline habitat and water quality.



Harmful to shoreline habitat and water quality.



**Vegetative Structure**



**Soil Coverage**

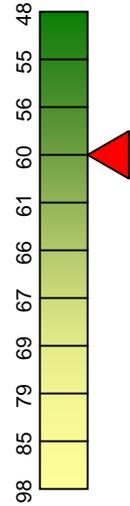
## Woods

Fair condition:

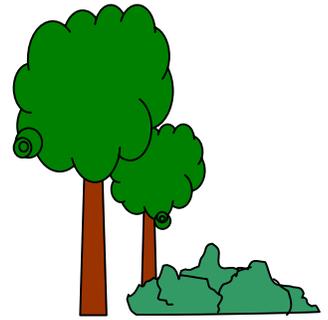
Ground cover (including forest litter) is 50-75%.



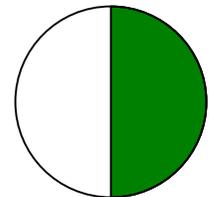
Best for shoreline habitat and water quality.



Harmful to shoreline habitat and water quality.



**Vegetative Structure**



**Soil Coverage**

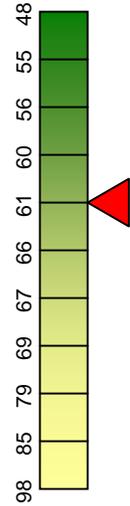
## Open Space

Good condition:

Grass cover is greater than 75%.



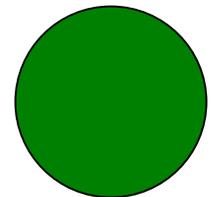
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Harmful to shoreline habitat and water quality.



**Vegetative Structure**



**Soil Coverage**

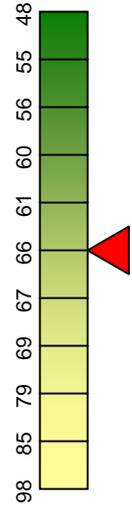
## Woods

Poor condition:

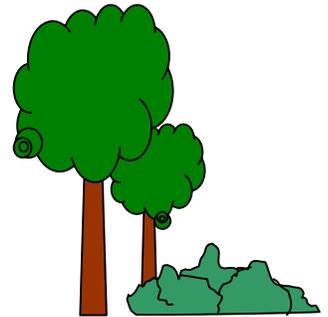
Ground cover (including forest litter) is less than 50%.



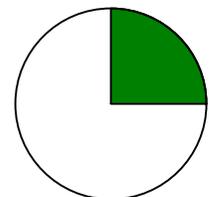
Best for shoreline habitat and water quality.



Harmful to shoreline habitat and water quality.



Vegetative Structure



Soil Coverage

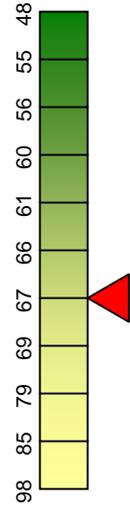
**Shrub/grass/sedge (Deep-rooted, native shrubs/grass/sedge)**

Poor condition:

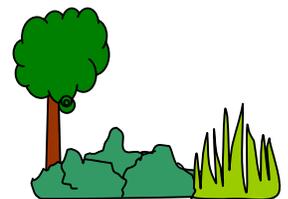
Ground cover is less than 50%.



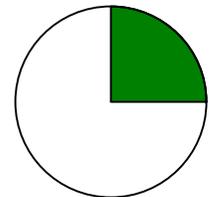
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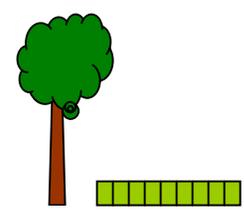
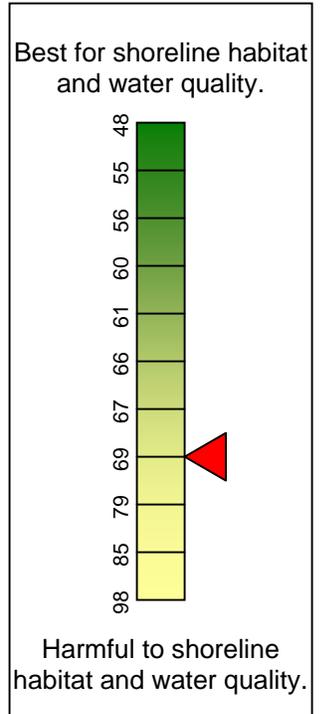
**Vegetative Structure**



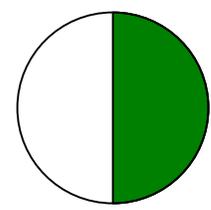
**Soil Coverage**

**Open Space**  
Fair condition:

Grass cover is 50-75%.



**Vegetative Structure**



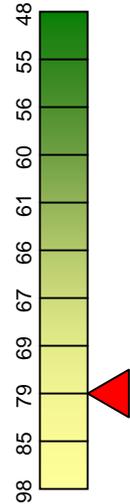
**Soil Coverage**

**Open Space**  
Poor condition:

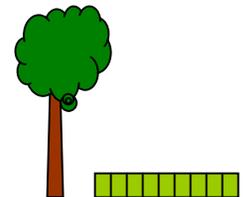
Grass cover less than 50%.



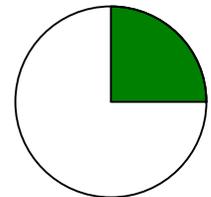
Best for shoreline habitat and water quality.



Harmful to shoreline habitat and water quality.



**Vegetative Structure**



**Soil Coverage**

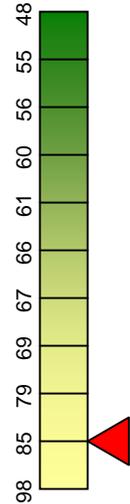
# Impervious

Gravel:

Gravel driveways, gravel walkways, etc.



Best for shoreline habitat and water quality.

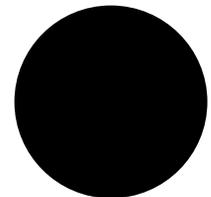


Harmful to shoreline habitat and water quality.

None



**Vegetative Structure**



**Soil Coverage**

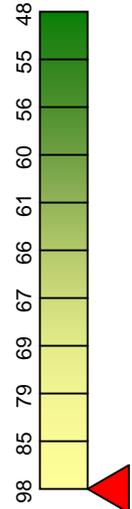
## Impervious

Roofs, pavement:

Roofs, paved driveways, paved walkways, paved patios, etc.:



Best for shoreline habitat and water quality.

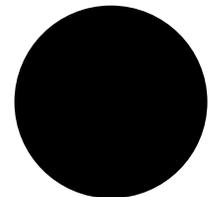


Harmful to shoreline habitat and water quality.

None



**Vegetative Structure**



**Soil Coverage**

