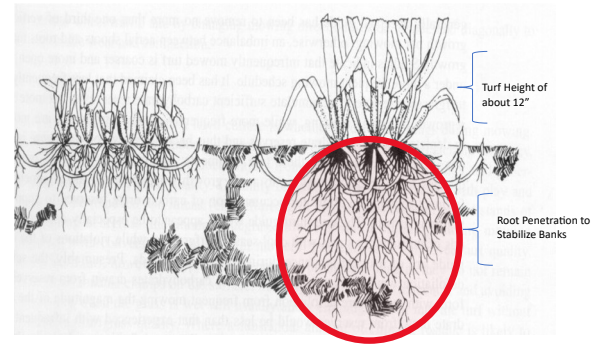


## Maintenance of the ‘No Mower’ Zone (Healthy Lakes Initiative)

The ‘No Mower’ Zone *{also called Buffer Zone}* is the perimeter around all of our lakes. The purpose is to obtain ecologically stable ecosystems by stabilizing the banks with extended root systems and to protect the shoreline against overland erosion and the lakes from nutrient runoff.



**Leaving a ‘No Mower’ Zone around each Lake** *(Keeps the heavy mowing equipment off the lake perimeter and bank edge)*

- Ideal width is 3 ft from the upper bank at water’s edge *{as wide as the geotextile tubing underneath}* HO Grounds Crew will paint a width line around all perimeters.
- The minimum width should be 2.5 ft depending on the specific situation of yard or slope of land. A rule-of-thumb is to leave the “width of the mower” which is about 3 ft.
- Protects the shoreline against overland erosion from rain & storms, irrigation, mechanical such as heavy mowers and a large volume of cut grass and leaf litter from being blown in.
- Reduces bank failure and maintains a more regular lake perimeter.
- Keeps the heavy lawn mowers off banks, particularly where the geotextile tubing is installed.

**Trimming the ‘No Mower’** *(To be conducted by Heritage Oaks Ground Crew with a reciprocal trimmer)*

- Trimming of the no mower zone is done periodically *{once a month except more frequent during rainy season}*.
- The purpose of trimming is to reduce the ‘weediness’ of the turf and weeds.
- Height will be maintained at approximately 12” which is about 4-6” above standard grass height. *{Allows root system to penetrate soil to stabilize bank structure}*.
- This buffer zone is the last line of defense to pick up excess nutrients from lawn and landscape areas.
- Reduces influx of organic matter into the lake such as grass clippings, leaf fall, etc.

### Cost Savings Implications

- Bank Stabilization with a no-cost ‘No Mower’ Zone saves expenditure on Bank Replacement projects *{Currently estimated at \$47-55/linear foot of perimeter}*.
- Reduction of influx of nutrients reduces the need for additional chemical treatment of lakes.

**Section 5.27(B) and 5.27(E) of the Heritage Oaks Declaration of Covenants declares that the “No Mow” Zone shall be maintained within all Associations.**