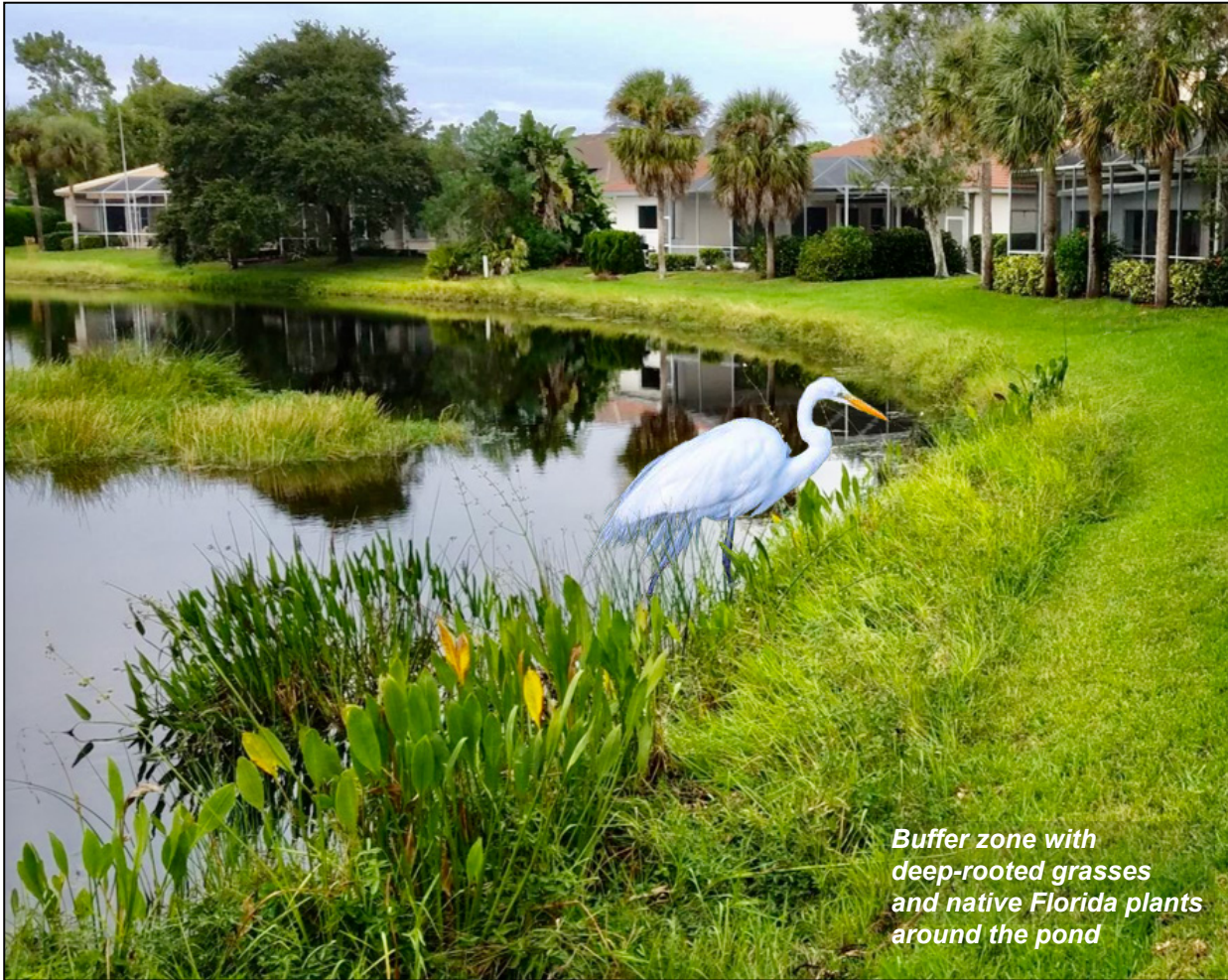


# Pond buffer zones add value, beauty, life



*Buffer zone with deep-rooted grasses and native Florida plants around the pond*

## ***What are stormwater ponds?***

- Man-made systems designed to imitate the role of natural Florida ponds and wetlands
- Engineered to prevent flooding
- Capture runoff from rain and irrigation – including pollutants
- Connect and empty into our bays
- Enhance property values, when well-maintained

## ***What are buffer zones (aka no-mow zones)?***

- Protected borders of vegetation around stormwater pond shorelines
- Should be at least 3 feet wide and 8 to 12 inches tall, accommodating native Florida plants
- Trimmed, not mowed

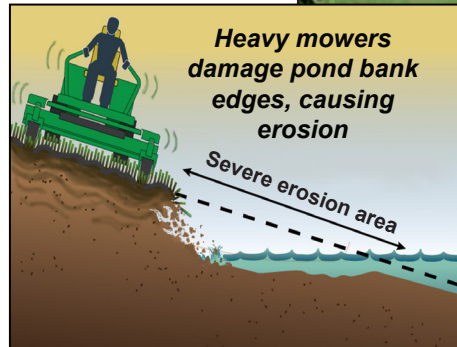
## ***Why plant buffer zones?***

- **Minimize erosion, delaying costly shoreline remediation for homeowners and associations**
- **Improve water quality by reducing nutrients, chemicals, and bacteria in runoff**
- **Add beauty by restoring habitat for wildlife and expanding plant diversity**
- **Increase property values**

# Without buffer zones

## *Ponds erode, costs rise, values decline:*

- Daily wind and wave action erode pond banks
- Fluctuations in pond levels wash away exposed banks
- Lack of deep-rooted plants leads to faster bank erosion
- **Costly remediation required: \$150 to \$200 per foot of shoreline, or \$100Ks per pond**



## *Ponds become unhealthy:*

- More nutrients, chemicals, and bacteria enter ponds
- Excessive algae blooms may form – releasing foul-smelling, sometimes toxic chemicals
- Algae blooms deplete pond oxygen, killing fish and driving away birds and other wildlife
- Algaecides do not treat the causes of algae and can accumulate in a pond, causing harm to its ecosystem



## *For more information on Natural Assets and buffer zones:*

- **VISIT:** [www.PalmerRanch.net](http://www.PalmerRanch.net)  
(Home > Resources > Natural Assets)
- **CONTACT: Palmer Ranch Master Property Owners Association, Inc.**  
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