



Three-Foot Low-Maintenance Zone (LMZ) is Our Community Standard

By the Rivendell Ponds and Preserves Committee

[Woodlands Word – February 2020]

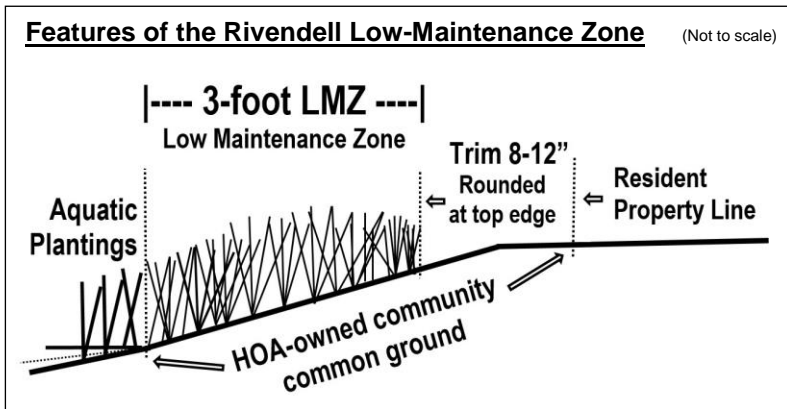
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The Rivendell Board has established a community standard for LMZs on pond shorelines. LMZs are a key component of the Rivendell “Natural Shorelines” Program to help control erosion. **Note that all pond shorelines and LMZs are on community common ground.** The land between each homeowner’s surveyed property line and the pond shoreline is community-owned common ground – that community property depth is at least 10 – 20 feet.

The Board is seriously considering a transition to a mandatory LMZ policy for all homes adjacent to ponds. This is in addition to the LMZs now in effect on community-mowed shorelines.

Installing a voluntary 3-foot Low-Maintenance Zone (LMZ) for homeowners living adjacent to ponds is currently encouraged by the Board. Identical LMZs are being maintained by the community landscape contractor on community common areas on most pond shorelines not adjacent to homes. This effort began with the Egret Pond Pilot Project. The LMZ at Egret Pond reflects the “community standard.”

- LMZs should be three feet wide and the full width of the property that borders the pond. This prevents heavy mowers from damaging the fragile banks. If your property is maintained by a landscape contractor, you may wish to install stakes to define the width of the LMZ, until it is fully established. This helps communicate your specifications to the operators of mowers and trimmers.



- The grass in the LMZ should be maintained to a height of 8-12 inches - slightly rounded at the top edge is preferred. This provides stability to the pond bank to control erosion and reduces fertilizer runoff into the pond.
- Care should be taken to trim the LMZ to a “neat, uniform, and manicured appearance,” which is the goal of our community for these LMZs, Rivendell-wide. Their appearance matters. Please keep clippings out of the pond as they can decompose and release nutrients to that pond - contributing to unsightly algae. Avoid cutting aquatic plantings in the pond.

Please encourage your pond neighbors to install and maintain a Low-Maintenance Zone. The Rivendell “Natural Shorelines” Program will work best when all Rivendell residents, particularly those living adjacent to ponds, support the program and do their part to contribute to this community-wide effort.

Your actions make a difference!



**Erosion is real.
LMZs help control pond
shoreline damage.**

**Sprinkler
Head**