

SHORELAND ALTERATIONS



Water is Crow Wing County's lifeblood. The County has an area of 740,000 acres and approximately 102,000 acres, or 14%, is covered by lakes, rivers, and streams. An additional 26% is covered by wetlands. A shoreland alteration permit is required for most dirt moving and vegetation removal activities in shoreland zones (within 1,000 ft. for lakes, 300 ft. for streams).

Water-Oriented Accessory Structures

- A 12 ft. tall, 120 sq. ft. shed is allowed by the lakeshore (250 sq. ft. if commercial property). The shed must be located at least 20 ft. from the Ordinary High Water level (OHW) and must meet all other setbacks. It cannot have water or sewer connections and cannot be used for human habitation.
- These can also be decks, patios, gazebos, etc...check with Land Services for more information.

Beaches (referred to as 'sand blankets')

- Up to 10 cubic yards (50 cubic yards for commercial) of sand for maintenance of existing beaches is allowed annually without a permit
- New sand blankets are limited in length to 30% of shoreline (200 ft. max), with a max width of 25 ft. back from the OHW with a permit

Rip Rap

Placement of natural rock riprap requires a permit and must comply with the following:

- Can only be permitted when shoreline erosion is evident.
- Only natural rock (6" - 30" in diameter) that is free of debris. Concrete is not allowed.
- The minimum finished slope waterward of the OHW must be no steeper than 3:1
- Riprap cannot exceed 200 linear feet.
- The landward extent must be within 10 feet of the OHW and cannot extend higher than 3 feet above OHW.
- The installation of riprap must not be located in wetlands.
- The installation of riprap is subject to the requirements of, and/or permitting by the MN DNR.

Ice Ridges & Watercraft Access Ramps

- **Annual Ice Ridge** = linear mound of lakebed materials pushed onto the lakeshore by the action of ice within a calendar year
No permit required if work is completed within current, calendar year (erosion/sediment control required)
- **Historic Ice Ridge** = linear mound of lakebed materials pushed up onto the lakeshore by the action of ice over a period of two or more years upon which well-established herbaceous and woody vegetation is growing
Removal of 15 linear ft. is allowed with a permit on residential lots, 25 ft. on commercial lots. A stabilized side slope (2:1) and a berm or diversion channel landward of the alteration are required to prevent erosion/sedimentation
- Watercraft access ramps are allowed with a permit on private lands on lakes without a public access.

Stairways, Lifts, Landings, Steps, and Decks

- New decks are not allowed inside the building setback without a variance.
- A 4 ft. wide walkway or stairway within the lake setback is allowed with a permit (some exceptions apply)
- Landings on stairways are allowed by permit, with a size limit of 32 sq. ft.
- An 6 ft. wide elevated boardwalk for lake access over wetland is allowed with a permit.
- Structures built before 1972 may be allowed a deck not meeting setbacks. Check with the Environmental Services Staff for more information.

Shoreline Vegetation Removal

- A new **shoreline recreation use area** is allowed by permit. Intensive clearing can occur for up to 30% of the total lot width (with a maximum of 200 ft.) by 25 ft. deep. Clearing in SIZ1 is also allowed for a 15 ft. wide access path to the lake, with a permit.
- Limited vegetation removal is allowed without a permit in SIZ1 on GD & RD lakes for view of the lake from principal dwelling site as well as in conjunction with permitted stairways, picnic areas, beach and water oriented structures
- Woody vegetation removal in the SIZ1 on Natural Environment (NE) lakes requires a permit

Property owners within 500 ft. of the Mississippi River or within a floodplain should contact Land Services for applicable regulations.

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Patios & Retaining Walls (permit required if within structure setback line)

- Patios in SIZ1 (Shore Impact Zone 1 = first half of setback): limited to 120 sq. ft. (permitted as a water-oriented accessory structure)
- Patios in SIZ2 (Shore Impact Zone 2 = second half of setback): limited to 250 sq. ft. Can be increased to 400 sq. ft. with an implemented stormwater management plan
- Retaining walls up to 4 ft. in height are allowed in SIZ1 and SIZ2 by permit to control erosion
- Design and stabilization plans are required for walls in SIZ1 and SIZ2. All walls are limited by dirt moving amounts (see below)

Residential Dirt Moving Amounts Allowed by Permit (additional amounts would require a conditional use permit)

- SIZ1 (Shore Impact Zone 1 = first half of setback): Up to 30 cubic yards of dirt moving allowed every 3 years (including sand) w/ permit.
- SIZ2 (Shore Impact Zone 2 = second half of setback): 10 to 50 cubic yards allowed every 3 years with a permit
- RLZ (Rear Lot Zone = setback to rear of Shoreland District): 10 to 100 cubic yards allowed every 3 years with a permit

Commercial Dirt Moving Amounts Allowed by Permit (additional amounts would require a conditional use permit)

Dirt moving amounts for commercial properties are measured by shoreline width. Example; on a General Development lake or river, 30 cubic yards of dirt moving can occur for every 100' of shoreline.

Type of Lake or River	Shoreline Width	Shore impact zone 1 (SIZ 1)	Shore Impact Zone 2 (SIZ 2)	Rear Lot Zone (RLZ)
General Development Lake or River	100'	30 cubic yards	50 cubic yards	100 cubic yards
Recreational Development Lake or River	150'	30 cubic yards	50 cubic yards	100 cubic yards
Natural Environment Lake or River	200'	30 cubic yards	50 cubic yards	100 cubic yards
Natural Environment – special shallow lake	250'	30 cubic yards	50 cubic yards	100 cubic yards
Cold Water River	300'	30 cubic yards	50 cubic yards	100 cubic yards

Boardwalks

Boardwalks are the preferred method of accessing public waters across riparian wetlands. Boardwalks constructed on posts or pilings (temporary or permanent) are not considered fill. Boardwalks may incorporate railings and must comply with the following standards;

- Be constructed perpendicular to the shoreline to the greatest extent possible
- Not have a roof, canopy or be enclosed
- Not extend into adjoining riparian areas
- Meet property line setbacks
- Be no wider than 6 feet
- Structures supports, other than posts or pilings, must be constructed above the wetland surface and decking shall be constructed a minimum of 12 inches above the wetland surface.
- Comply with MN Rules 6115.0210 for docks and access below the OHW
- Comply with Article 21 (floodplain Overlay District)

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR ALL SHORELAND ALTERATION PERMITS

- A stormwater plan is required if the impervious surface coverage of the property is more than 15%
- Shoreland rapid assessment is required for impervious surface coverage of more than 20%
- A valid passing septic compliance inspection must be on file prior to permit application submittal.

Activities that may NOT require a permit Please check with Land Services first!

- Yard creation in upland areas (limited to 10 cubic yards annually...only in SIZ2, RLZ)
- The construction of a driveway, access road, or parking area in the RLZ
- Excavation for wetland habitat improvements, except in the SIZ.
- Removal of dead or diseased trees / limbs or invasive species
- Fences (if outside the building setback and under 6.5 feet in height)