



Sawyer County Zoning Shoreland Guidelines

The purpose of this page is to provide general guidelines for common activities within the shorelands. Shorelands are defined as "Lands within the following distances from the ordinary high-water mark of navigable waters: 1,000 feet from a lake, pond or flowage; and 300 feet from a river or stream or to the landward side of the floodplain, whichever distance is greater." Sawyer County Zoning Ordinance section numbers are provided if applicable.

Retaining walls: Retaining walls within 75 feet of navigable waters are prohibited. Contact the Zoning Office prior to the replacement or construction of retaining walls.

Riprap: Riprap is a layer of loose rock or other material placed to prevent erosion. A DNR permit is required for the placement of rip-rap.

Sand blanket: A sand blanket is a thin layer of sand placed on the bed of lakes for improving the condition of the beach. A DNR permit is required.

Shoreline clearing guidelines: (Section 4.410, Shoreline Vegetation Protection Area) The intent of shoreline clearing policies is to preserve a 35' shoreline buffer zone of natural shoreline vegetation; yet allow shoreline property owners access to the waters abutting their property. Shoreline property owners must recognize that they have a responsibility to all users of the water resource to maintain the shoreline and its buffer zone, in as near to a natural state as possible. The clearing of shoreline vegetation becomes a responsibility balanced between the rights of the property owner, the recreational user and the local wildlife.

For any 100' of shoreline, a property owner may create an area 30' wide and 35' inland (a 30' wide x 35' deep corridor) more or less perpendicular to the shore, by the mowing, pruning and the selective removal of trees, stumps and shrubbery. This corridor may be no closer than 10' to a lot line and no closer than 70' to any other access corridor on the same lot. This corridor is the property owner's access to the shoreline. The remaining 70' by 35' portion of this 100' strip of frontage is to remain in its natural state with the exception that dead and diseased trees and noxious vegetation (i.e., poison ivy, poison oak, ragweed etc.) may be removed at any time.

Stairways, walkways, powered lifts, decks and platforms: (Section 4.49(6), Setbacks from Navigable

Water) Stairways and walkways within 75' of the ordinary high-water mark shall be constructed in accordance with the following guidelines.

- Width shall not exceed four (4) feet. Powered lift widths shall not exceed six (6) feet.
- Shall be constructed to avoid erosion (i.e., not constructed on erodible soils, steep slopes or a bluff face).
- Shall be visually inconspicuous.
- The cumulative square footage of all landings located within 75' of the ordinary high-water mark shall not exceed 40 square feet.
- With the exception of a "GARD GAZEBO PERMIT" (Section 4.49(2) Setbacks from Navigable Water), decks and platforms are prohibited. Please contact the office for permit information.

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