

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 be used for human habitation.
- These can also be decks, patios, gazebos, etc...check with the Land Service Specialist for your area.

Beaches (referred to as 'sand blankets')

- Existing: Up to 10 cubic yards (50 cubic yards for commercial) of sand for maintenance is allowed annually without a permit
- New: Length is limited to 30% of shoreline (200 ft. max), with a max width of 25 ft. back from the OHW (< 10% slope) with permit

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 (upland areas only)

Stairways, Lifts, Landings, Steps, and Decks

- New decks are not allowed inside the building setback without a variance (some exceptions apply)
- 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. (64 sq. ft. for commercial)
- A 6 ft. wide elevated boardwalk for lake access over wetlands (8 ft. wide for commercial) is allowed with a permit

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 annually (including sand) w/permit
- SIZ2 (Shore Impact Zone 2 = second half of setback): 10 to 50 cubic yards allowed annually with a permit
- RLZ (Rear Lot Zone = setback to rear of Shoreland District): 10 to 100 cubic yards allowed annually with a permit

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

- Patios in SIZ1: limited to 120 sq. ft. (permitted as a water-oriented accessory structure)
- Patios in SIZ2: 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 (no permit needed in RLZ).
- Design and stabilization plans are required for walls in SIZ1 and SIZ2. All walls are limited by dirt moving amounts (see above)

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 lake from principal dwelling site as well as in conjunction with permitted stairways, picnic areas, beach and watercraft access areas, and water oriented structures
- Woody vegetation removal in the SIZ1 on Natural Environment (NE) lakes requires a permit

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 (SRAM in Appendix C of Ordinance) is required for impervious surface coverage of more than 20%
- Subsurface sewage treatment system (SSTS) must pass compliance and assessment requirements

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.
- Rip-rap (meeting DNR standards) and approved shoreline stabilization plans

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