

# SHORELAND ALTERATIONS



Crow Wing County seeks to preserve and enhance the quality of surface waters, conserve the economic and environmental value of shorelands, protect drinking water sources, sensitive slopes and bluffs, and provide for the wise use of water and related land resources. A shoreland alteration permit is required for most dirt-moving and vegetation removal activities in shoreland zones

## Water-Oriented Accessory Structures

- A 12 ft high, 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 (OHW) level and must meet all other setbacks. It cannot be used for human habitation

## Beaches (referred to as 'sand blankets')

- Up to 10 cubic yards of sand for beaches (sand blankets) is allowed with a permit (must have slopes under 10%)
- The length of the beach is limited to 30 feet along the shoreline, with a maximum width of 15 feet back from the OHWL

## Ice Ridges & Watercraft Access Ramps

- **Annual Ice Ridge** = linear mound of lakebed materials pushed up onto the lakeshore by the action of ice within a calendar year  
Removal allowed by permit if work is completed by September 1 of the current year
- **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 feet is allowed by permit on residential lots, 25 feet 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, and Decks

- **New** decks are not allowed inside the building setback without a variance
- A 4 ft wide stairway or elevated boardwalk is allowed to access the lake (8 ft wide on commercial)
- Landings on stairways are allowed, with a size limit of 32 sq. ft for residential and 64 sq. ft for commercial

## Patios & Retaining Walls (only need a permit if within structure setback line)

- Patios are not allowed in SIZ1 and are limited to 180 sq. ft in size in SIZ2. They must be free standing and at grade.
- Retaining walls up to 4 feet in height are allowed in the SIZ 1 and SIZ2 by permit to control erosion (no permit needed in RLZ).
- Design and stabilization plans are required for walls in the SIZ and SIZ2. All walls are limited by dirt moving totals (see below).

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

- SIZ: Up to 30 cubic yards of dirt moving allowed (including amount used for beach)
- SIZ2: 10 to 50 cubic yards allowed with permit
- RLZ: 10 to 100 cubic yards allowed with permit

## Shoreline Vegetation Removal

- Intensive vegetation clearing not allowed in SIZ1 except for 15 foot wide access to lake or for creation of shoreline recreation use area of up to 30% of the total lot width up to a maximum of 200 feet (with a permit)
- Woody removal in the SIZ1 on NE lakes requires a permit
- Limited vegetation removal allowed without a permit in SIZ1 on GD and 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

## **PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR ALL SHORELAND ALTERATION PERMITS**

- Stormwater plan or best management practices (BMPs) is required depending on % of impervious surface on property
- Shoreland rapid assessment (using SRAM in Appendix C) may be required depending on % impervious surface
- Subsurface sewage treatment system (SSTS) must pass compliance and assessment requirements

## **Activities that may NOT require a permit *Please check with Environmental Services first!***

- Yard creation in upland areas (limited to 10 cubic yards...only in SIZ2, RLZ)
- The construction of a driveway, access road or parking area in the RLZ
- Agricultural roads, practices, and improvements and public road / utility projects
- Excavation for wetland habitat improvements, except in the SIZ.
- Rip-rap (meeting DNR standards) & approved shoreline stabilization plans
- Removal of dead or diseased trees / limbs or invasive species
- Fences (if outside the building setback and under 6.5 feet in height)

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