

SUMMARY OF MENOMINEE COUNTY SHORELAND ZONING REQUIREMENTS

CONSERVATION/FORESTRY/ZONING (CFZ) DEPARTMENT – (715) 799-5710

This is a summary of requirements within Menominee County for restrictions placed on any disruption of shoreline areas. This is not all inclusive and any questions or additional information needed should be directed to the number above. It is the property owner's responsibility to obtain the regulations and permits required by the County Zoning Ordinance before starting any work near shoreline areas. Also, there is the Shoreland Protection Ordinance (#68) to protect scenic beauty of the shorelines, as well as protect the water quality and wildlife habitats in these areas.

Vegetation protection and removal

- All areas within 35 feet of the lake must be vegetated to control erosion and nutrients/pollutant runoff.
- An access corridor to the water 35' wide per lot is allowed. Cutting and trimming of trees and shrubs is allowed to permit access and allow a viewing corridor. See the diagram below for a general shoreline vegetation area guideline.
- Dead or diseased trees and shrubs may be removed with proper discretion and verbal permission by the forester (conservation dept.). Oak cutting between April 1 and Oct. 1 requires a permit from the forester.

Land disturbance

- Any land disturbances such as grading or excavating require a zoning permit.
- The only area that may be routinely disturbed is a **pre-existing** 15' by 30' beach area (no new beaches may be created). This area may be kept free of vegetation, providing that it does not create an erosion problem. All other remaining areas within shoreline setback areas must remain vegetated.

Fertilizer Usage

- Only Phosphorus free fertilizer may be applied within shoreline setback areas and not at all within 10 feet of the ordinary high water mark.
- Phosphorus containing fertilizer can only be applied if shown by a certified soil test that it is insufficient to maintain vegetated cover.

Fill Within the Setback Area

- A zoning permit is required for any fill within the shoreline setback area. This includes sand, black dirt, compost and rock.
- Beaches cannot be 'replenished' each year without a permit.

Structures

- Retaining walls cannot be permitted within 75' of a surface water. They are non-permissible structures and require Board of Adjustments approval of a variance.
- One 200 square foot 'open sided' structure may be permitted within the shoreland area, but not within 35' feet of the surface water. This may include permeable patios, free standing decks, or screened gazebos.

Shoreline Access

- Pedestrian access to water must be within the access/viewing corridor.
- Walkways up to 5 feet wide may be permitted providing they are permeable to water. Pavers, gravel or mulch are options for these walkways.
- Steps of most solid materials are allowed in steep areas.
- All paths and use areas need to be stable and not have erosion problems.

Fences

- Fences are not allowed within the shoreland setback areas.

Boathouses

- Through State Law and the newly adopted County Shoreland Protection Ordinance, some structures within the setback area may be granted permission in certain circumstances. Contact the zoning office for additional information.
- Boathouses on Legend Lake must be permitted by County Zoning and receive a variance from the Legend Lake Property Owners Association.

Grant Programs

- State cost-share dollars may be available through two separate programs to stabilize and/or naturalize your shoreline. Contact the CFZ department for details.

General Rules for Shorelands

