

FAQs for the County

Conservation/Forestry/Zoning Department

(715) 799-5710: jeremyj@co.menominee.wi.us

Tree Care and Cutting

When do I need a permit to cut trees? What trees may be cut without a permit?

- When cutting or trimming oak trees, a permit is needed from April 1 – October 1 each year. If a storm damages an oak(s), you can clean up storm damage without a permit. Please call the department to report the work though. See the next question for steps that should be taken to minimize the chance of oak wilt infection.
- All other species of trees may be cut without a permit anytime. However, there are zoning restrictions to cutting trees and shrubs in the shoreland area of lakes and streams. See the zoning section below.
- Click [here](#) for the county webpage that has more information.

What do I do after I cut an oak tree? Why do I need a permit for cutting oak trees?

- When permitted, guidelines will be right on the permit. All landowners that have oak trees should keep a can of pruning sealer (aka tree wound dressing) at their property in case of damage to an oak during the growing season. Any accidental wound or storm clean-up wounds should be sealed as soon as possible after the wound is made to keep the oak wilt fungus out of your trees.
- The wilt fungus is spread by sap feeding beetles during the growing season. By sealing wounds to the sapwood of oaks, the beetles will not visit those wounds, thereby keeping the fungus on their bodies from infecting the tree.

How soon should I clean up a damaged oak tree?

- The oak(s) should be cleaned up and all wounds and stumps sealed as soon as possible. The sap feeding beetles that spread the wilt fungus can visit fresh sapwood very soon after the wounds are made.

I'd like to cut down trees on tribal trust land, what is the process?

- First contact tribal community development at (715) 799-5155. They will approve the work once other approvals have been made. MTE and this department need to be consulted for wood consideration and oak wilt guidelines (April through September).

How can I save my oak trees from dying of oak wilt infection?

- Unfortunately, oak wilt is a disease that is very hard to control. The best control is to prevent the disease in the first place by not having open wounds on oaks during the growing season. See information above.
- There are a few options to consider when you have oak wilt present. One is root cutting to prevent underground spread through root grafts between the oaks. Another is fungicide injections to protect individual oaks. Another, more drastic measure, is to cut enough oaks down in and around the infection so it has no chance to move through living oaks. This would take clearing a pretty large area of oaks. For help on wilt control, call the department.

Conservation

How do I report this plant that is growing out of control on my street?

- You may have an exotic invasive specie growing near you if it is quite noticeable. Please call the department and we can identify the plant and help with control if it is necessary.

Can I plant trees and other plants on my property without a permit? Even by the shoreline?

- Yes, but please research the plants that you want to use. Many garden plants that you can buy become invasive pests such as barberry, honeysuckle, buckthorn, snow-on-the-mountain, and burning bush. We can help you select some nice plants that are not invasive to the landscape.
- You can plant along and near the shoreline without a permit if the work has minimal disturbance. A zoning permit will most likely be required if any fill is being brought in or the disturbance will be extensive. Call for a determination on this.

How do I know what I should plant on my property? Are some plants better than others?

- This department can help with recommendations. There is a list of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers on the 'land and water conservation' sub-department of the county website. Use this link to get to that list – [native plants](#)
- This list has many parameters listed to determine what plants will do well in specific sites for soils, sun conditions, and moisture availability. Survival rates of plants are determined partly by these conditions, as well as care early on after planting until they are well established. We always recommend native species first, since they are adapted to the area and are not invasive.

Well & Septic

How do I order a well-water test kit? How do I use a test kit?

- This department has two different kits available for landowners. One is a comprehensive test kit to test many parameters of water quality. The other can be used for testing for individual items such as bacteria, iron, arsenic, etc.
- There are instructions within the kits we have available. Please call or stop by to get information.

I know of a well no longer in use, what should I do about it?

- That well may need to be abandoned to minimize the chance of groundwater contamination. It is a relatively inexpensive process that local well drillers can complete. There are even cost-share dollars available through this department to help pay for the cost. Contact the department for details.

Why do I get the card from the county (or Lake District) about having my septic pumped/inspected?

- There is a state law and county ordinance that requires inspection of all private onsite wastewater treatment systems (powts) at least every three years. These laws are in place to protect human health, as well as our groundwater and surface waters from human waste contamination.

I suspect my septic system is failing, what do I do?

- Contact a local inspection service to have them take a look at the problem(s). They should also submit an inspection report to this office. There is a required 3 year inspection interval by Ordinance for all septic systems in the county. If a full inspection is done, and repairs are completed, this will satisfy that requirement and you will not need to complete again for three more years (providing there aren't additional problems in that timeframe).

I'd like to know the septic information for my lot, where can I get that information?

- You can contact this department for information. We will have paperwork for most county properties on file. Many files that originated before 1985 are not present anymore. Call or email the department to see if we have information for your system.

Zoning/Building

What permits do I need for my project?

- See the county building & zoning page for permitting information [here](#).
- If you are not sure what permits will be required, contact the department.

My neighbor has a construction project, how do I know they have a permit?

- Call the department and we can check if a project has been properly permitted. We do not publish active permits online.

What areas are at risk of flooding? Where are the flood plains?

- Generally, only the developed areas around our rivers like in Keshena or Neopit. There is no real flood risk along the developed lakes.
- The only "flood plains" are within Keshena and Neopit. These are not recognized at this point by FEMA, so there are no official flood plain maps for Menominee County.

I'd like to build on a tribal trust lot, what is the process? Who do I go to?

- Tribal permits are required. Contact tribal community development at (715) 799-5155.

Garbage/Recycling

How do I order a trash or a recycling bin (cart)? How much does it cost? Am I exempt from buying it? When will I get it?

- Call or email the department if you need a rolling cart. We need to place the order with the contractor for you.
- Each cart will cost \$75 as a one-time fee for the cost of the unit and delivery to your site. Taxes pay for monthly curb side pick-up, so there is no additional fee.
- There are some instances where the fee does not apply. Newly built residences that need carts do not have to pay for them. If the contractor damages your cart where it needs to be replaced, they will do so with no fee involved.
- Carts are normally delivered within two weeks of the order.

What landfills can I use? What are their fees?

- The closest ones are located in Keshena, Shawano, and Antigo. The Keshena site on Kittecon Road charges an annual fee. Contact tribal community development at (715)799-5155 for current fees.
- Shawano and Antigo landfills need to be contacted for tipping fee schedules, location, and what can be brought to them for disposal. Shawano city landfill – (715) 524-2230. Antigo Waste Management landfill – (715) 627-4475

When can I have large items picked up by Harters on the curb-side?

- The county and Menominee Tribe host a spring clean-up week annually, typically in April or May. Large items such as old furniture and other debris can be placed at the road edge. Visit the [solid waste/recycling webpage](#) for information on this. It typically will be posted in March of each year and the flyer will have details on what can be placed at the curb and what cannot.

Where is the compost site? What is the fee? When is it open?

- The only county compost site available is owned and operated by the Legend Lake Property Owners Association (LLPOA). It is located on Silver Canoe Road, just north of county highway VV. Contact LLPOA for fees, hours, and availability at (715) 799-3317.

How do I order a large dumpster?

- Contact Harters, Waste Management, or another carrier directly for this. Each company can deliver and pick up the large, roll off dumpsters for construction or clean-up projects. They have their fees set for each size dumpster. Contact them directly.
- Harters – (888) 804-8556
- Waste Management – (888) 275-1401
- Please keep in mind, that if you need a large dumpster for a project, there is a good chance you need a building and/or a zoning permit. Contact the department for permits.

Shoreland

Why should I leave my shore natural?

- Natural cover and native vegetation is best suited for shoreline stability and for nature's food chain. Many shorelines have erosion problems, with most of those being cleared of natural vegetation and either left as bare sand or planted with turf grass. Bare soil will always be subject to erosion and instability, and turf grass has shallow roots that do not stabilize soil well. Shoreland areas should be kept as natural as possible to help hold your property from washing away.
- Even a narrow strip of 5-10 feet along the shoreline, of native grasses, sedges, and wildflowers, can do a lot for stabilizing the bank.
- State law and county [ordinance #68](#) – Shoreland Protection both require it. A 35 foot vegetated buffer is required along the shoreline, with the exception of a 35 foot wide access corridor to the water. See this [link](#) for a shoreland zoning summary.

How can I get help with shoreline erosion problems?

- Contact the department for advice. We are willing to meet onsite to give advice on plants, erosion control, permitting, tree health, etc.

What programs are available to help shoreland owners protect the shoreline and natural areas?

- There is a state grant program to help owners stabilize and create more natural shoreland buffers along their shore. Up to 70% of eligible costs can be reimbursed through the state program by the county. Contact us for details on this Soil and Water Resource Management Program through the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection. Click [here](#) for program details on the county website.
- Another state program can help shoreline owners with runoff concerns. There are several practices that can be cost-shared, each up to \$1,000 of cost (75/25% match). This program is called the Healthy Lakes Initiative and more information can be viewed [here](#).

Recreation

Where are the public boat landings? What are the fees?

- There are only three public landings in Menominee County. All three are on the Legend Lake chain. There is one on Old South Branch Road just south of the Legend Lake Lodge. The second is off the north end of Running Bear Road, which can be accessed from county highway VV via Rainbow Road. The third landing is on the east end of the lake along Long Lake Road, just north of the dam.
- Fees only apply to users of the landings coming from outside Menominee. Tribal members and landowners within Menominee are fee exempt. Fees to use any of these three landings are \$10 for a daily launch pass or \$50 for an annual launch pass.

Where are public lands I can use?

- Public lands are very limited in Menominee since most of the land is held in trust for the Menominee Tribe. There are several town conservancy areas around Long and Legend Lakes. Contact the department for details on where these public lands are located.

Can I fish on the lakes in Menominee and do I need a license?

- The only lake that anyone from the public can fish on is Legend Lake. Owners that have land on a few of the other lakes in Menominee can fish on those lakes: Moshawquit, LaMotte, Round, Southeast Bass, and Upper Bass. As a landowner, you have legal access to those waterbodies on which your property lies. In all cases, a typical State fishing license through the DNR is all you need if you are not a tribal member.

Can I hunt anywhere in Menominee?

- Tribal members and descendants of members have rights to hunt within the reservation. Gun hunting for deer by the non-tribal people is not permitted by State rule in Menominee County.
- The general public has very limited hunting ability within Menominee County. Only the town conservancies would allow access to the public for hunting small game, waterfowl, turkeys, etc.
- Legend Lake property owners can hunt on Legend Lake Property Owners Association forested outlots, but must follow all state hunting regulations. Only bow hunting for deer is currently allowed to non-tribal people.