

SCORE YOUR SHORE and RECOMMENDED CRITERIA
The Online version is Not available at this time.

DIRECTIONS: Read the Question chose your response, then look below for the DNR recommended answer

shoreland zones diagram courtesy of the Minnesota DNR



Shoreline Buffer Zone (water's edge to 25-50 ft. landward). What percentage of the buffer is unmowed and/or includes native grasses, plants, trees, or shrubs? *

- 1-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%

76-100%

Tip

A lush Shoreline Buffer Zone of native plants prevents harmful runoff of silt and nutrients from entering the lake. The deeper and more extensive the buffer zone, the better it protects lake water quality. If you have an especially deep or diverse buffer zone, thank you! And if not, you can easily build a protective buffer zone by starting small....just stop mowing.

Recommended Criteria: There must be a buffer zone of native plants along at least 75% of the lakeshore that is at least 25 ft (25-50 ft) deep from water's edge landward. The other 25% of the lakeshore can be impervious such as beach, boathouse, deck.

Upland Zone (shoreline buffer to access road). What percentage of the Upland Zone includes trees, shrubs, and natural ground cover?

1-25%

26-50%

51-75%

76-100%

Tip

The Upland Zone, especially because it tends to be larger in area than the buffer zone, can be very protective of the lake while also creating biodiversity and wildlife habitat.

Recommended Criteria: Excluding impervious such as house or driveway, the remainder of the property must have at least 50% native trees, shrubs and plants

Riprap - (stones assembled on a lakeshore in an attempt to prevent erosion)

No riprap or old riprap and plants are allowed to grow there.

Riprap is clean, no plants because of your efforts.

Tip

Native plants growing in riprap, because of their deep roots, protect the lake from runoff and provide habitat, but they also protect a lakeshore owner's property against wave action caused by boats or by wind.

Recommended Criteria: If there is riprap along shore, plants are allowed to grow in it.

Do you remove aquatic plants by pulling, smothering with barriers, mechanical devices or chemicals in the Aquatic Zone - water's edge to deep end of weed bed?

- Yes
- No

Tip

As with plants in riprap, aquatic plants protect your shoreline, as well as provide habitat. It is acceptable for Lake Stewards to remove the least amount of plants that will allow you to enjoy your lakeshore for swimming or boating.

Recommended Criteria: . For plants in the aquatic zone, only the smallest number/amount can be removed that will allow access to the water for swimming and boating.

Do you use broadcast fertilizer and/or broadcast pesticides such as lawn chemicals, weed killers or mosquito abatement foggers?

- Yes
- No

Tip

We highly recommend no broadcast spraying of pesticides or insecticides. Please be kind to pollinators.

Recommended Criteria: No broadcast fertilizer or herbicides/pesticides, including no mosquito spraying, nor aquatic treatments for plants or invertebrates.

Do you maintain your septic system according to best management practices, such as pumping every 1-3 years?

- Yes, or I have city sewer.
- No

Tip

Leaking or damaged septic systems are one of the largest sources of pollution of our lakes. If you are unsure, learn how your system works and how often it needs to be pumped, so that you can keep

waste out of the lake. View the Recording of Septic Secrets at MLR

website: www.anymeeting.com/292-823-775/EA50D982874E3A

Recommended Criteria: Septic system, if present, must be maintained according to best management practices, which usually includes pumping every 1-3 years depending on size of the system and number of people living at the property

Is stormwater runoff getting to the lake from your driveway, roof, pathways, patios or other hard surfaces?

- Yes, and it's a problem
- Yes, but just a little bit
- No, not at all

Tip

If you go outside during a heavy rain, you will be able to see where the stormwater pools. Rain gardens, usually placed near a source of runoff such as a roof downspout, can collect water during heavy rains so that the runoff can infiltrate the ground.

Recommended Criteria: There must be no evidence of stormwater runoff into the lake.

Do you leave pet waste, ashes from a fire pit or piles of leaves on your lakeshore where they may wash into the lake, thus contributing to algae blooms?

- Yes
- No

Tip

If you have a fire pit, please remove it from the shoreline buffer zone (within 50 ft of the lake) and take care that the ashes cannot enter the lake.

Recommended Criteria: Fire pits can be detrimental to the lake because the ashes are high in phosphorus. If there is a fire pit, it must be at least 25 ft (?50 ft) back from the water's edge. Pet waste should be picked up from the same area, and piles of leaves, grass clippings, etc. not permitted near the water where they could wash into the lake.

Do you allow woody structures such as dead trees to remain in the lake where they have fallen to provide habitat for wildlife?

- Yes, I have, or I will allow it if it happens

No, or if it happens I will remove the trees

Recommended Criteria: Please allow fallen trees to remain in the water to provide habitat, unless they obstruct recreation access.

If you store boats, docks, lifts or other equipment on shore, do you minimize the amount of space they take up by stacking or elevating on blocks?

Yes

No

I don't store equipment on shore

Recommended Criteria: Docks and lifts, if stored onshore, should be stacked so that the impervious surface affects the least area of the shoreline zone.

END OF SCORE_YOUR_SHORE QUIZ

Use your responses to determine if your could use Shoreline Restoration