

Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers

Other Resources

Owning Lakeshore in Douglas County

State Law requires boaters to:

Clean: Remove visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels and prohibited AIS from watercraft, trailers, and equipment before leaving access or lakeshore property.

Drain: Remove the drain plug from boat, livewell, bilage, motor, ballast tank and other water-related equipment. Keep drain plug out and water draining devices open while transporting watercraft.

Drain portable bait containers before leaving a water access. Anglers can keep unused bait if they refill the bait container with water brought from home.

Dispose: Place unwanted bait such as minnows, leeches, worms and fish parts in the trash. It is illegal to release live bait into the water or to release worms on the ground.

Recommended actions for boaters:

Rinse boats, trailers and recreational equipment with very hot tap water.

Spray with high pressure.

Dry for five days or more.

These laws and recommendations are intended to help prevent the spread of invasive species such as zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil and spiny waterfleas. For more information about AIS visit www.mndnr.gov/ais.

www.dnr.state.mn.us Fergus Falls Office # 218-739-7576 For in-lake & shoreline alternations permits

www.douglasswcd.com #320-763-3191 x126
Douglas County Water Plan Technician

MN DNR Conservation Office # 320-219-7765

T.I.P. line (800)-652-9093

Dispatch for DNR # 218-847-1550

DNR INFO # (888) 646-6367

DNR Fisheries & Wildlife Glenwood Office: # 320-634-4573

www.extension.umn.edu/shoreland Shoreland Education. # 218-998-3927

www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/douglas/ind_ex.html Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District # 320-762-3191

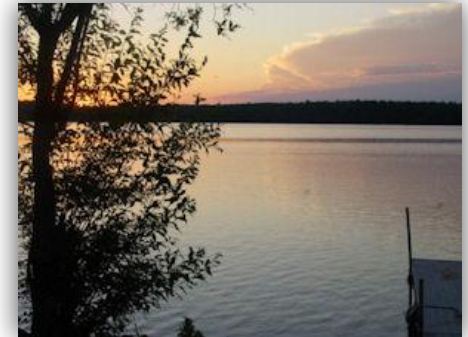
www.srwdmn.org Sauk River Watershed District

www.co.douglas.mn.us/land&resource.htm
Douglas County Land & Resource Dept.
Courthouse - 306 8th Avenue, Alexandria, MN 56308 # 320-762-3863

Douglas County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol #320-765-8151 on water issues - water structure permits

www.co.douglas.mn.us/LRM/Shoreland_Alteration_Permits.htm

DOUGLAS COUNTY LAKES ASSOCIATION <http://dclamn.org>



Owning lakeshore can be the most rewarding experience of a lifetime. From the peaceful sound of the lake lapping at the shore to the fabulous sunset over the horizon, being near water is relaxing and nurturing.

The **Douglas County Lakes Association** wants your entire experience to be a positive one so we have compiled some of the NEED TO KNOW items regarding your lakeshore ownership responsibilities. To avoid confusion about who does what, know that the County has jurisdiction over anything above the (OHWL) Ordinary High Water Level on land and the DNR jurisdiction is from the OHWL lakeward.

First you need to determine what the OHWL is on your lake. Your lake association or the DNR in Fergus Falls 218-739-7576 can assist you. The OHWL level is not where the water is currently. The DNR has established the ordinary level. Lake levels fluctuate continuously so don't trust your judgment...get the facts.

"Buyers BEWARE"

There is a little known, often violated Zoning Ordinance in Douglas County, Section V.F.5.c. This ordinance prohibits contiguous lots owned by the same person, that do not meet today's minimum size standards, from being sold individually without first obtaining a variance.

TERMS TO KNOW

Bluff Impact Zone - The Bluff Impact Zone is the bluff and land located within 30 feet of the top of the bluff. Buildings, accessory structures, and walkout basements are not allowed in the bluff impact zone. This determination may be difficult, contact the Land & Resource Department.

Shore Impact Zone is defined as the area extending landward from the OHWL, half of the distance of the structure setback. This area is the most sensitive area of lake property and requires the most protection. Buildings & accessory structures are not allowed in this area.

Impervious Surface Coverage: 25% is the maximum amount of land that may be covered by surfaces that repel water. This includes buildings, sidewalks, decks, landscaping, overhangs, driveways and gravel or otherwise.

Shoreland District: Any land within 1000 feet of a lake, 300 feet from a river or stream and the designated flood plain regulated by the Shoreland Management Act.

Wetlands: Wetlands are protected either by DNR or the MN Wetland Conservation Act. Wetlands on your property are regulated from filling and draining and have setbacks of either 25 or 50 feet depending on the type of wetland. Wetlands could range from a depression area that might hold water for a few weeks in the spring to an open water pond. If you question if a wetland exists on your property call SWCD @ 763-3191.

Use of a fertilizer containing phosphorus is not allowed in the State of Minnesota.

When any work is being done, erosion control methods must be used to prevent erosion into public waters. All landscapers must be licensed by the County. Check before you hire!

Burning is not allowed within 100 feet of the lake. Only campfires three feet or less are allowed near the lake but in a ring to prevent ash from escaping to the water.



Removing aquatic plants or altering shoreline will require a permit from the Minnesota DNR. Aquatic plants and natural shorelines provide habitat for fish and wildlife, help maintain water clarity and protect shorelines from erosion.

While cutting a small area of submerged aquatic plants for recreational activities is allowed without permit, the following require an Aquatic Plant Management Permit. Permit is valid for one year.

- Using herbicides or algacides to control aquatic plants in public waters.

-Removing emergent vegetation, like bulrush, cattails or wild rice.

-Removing floating leaf vegetation, like water lilies, in an area larger than a channel 15 feet wide extending to open waters.

-Cutting, pulling, or mechanically controlling vegetation in an area larger than 2500 square feet or wider than 50 feet.

-Removing or relocating a bog of any size that is free floating or lodged in any area other than its original location.

PERMITS

Shoreland Alteration Permits are required for:

Construction of retaining wall.

Repair or reconstruction of an existing retaining wall.

Movement of more than ten cubic yards of fill or soil in the impact zones or on steep slopes.

Movement of more than fifty cubic yards of fill or soil outside of the impact zones in a residential shore land district.

Ice ridge removal.

Sand beach area construction, stairs, patios, decks.

REMOVAL OF ANY TREES, SHRUBS OR VEGETATION.

-Installing or operating an automated plant control device such as Crary WeedRoller, Beachgroomer or Lake Sweeper. Call Glenwood DNR @ 320-634-4573.

Conditional Use Permits are required for:

Movement of more than ten cubic yards of fill or soil in the impact zones or on a steep slope.

Movement of more than fifty cubic yards of fill or soil outside of the impact zones in a residential shore land district.

Retaining wall & landscape projects if 25 feet in length or more.

When in doubt...check it out.

After-the- Fact Permits are 900.00 plus you may have to restore your project to the original condition!