



# Shoreline Vegetation Alterations and Stormwater Management in Shoreland Areas

St. Louis County Planning and Zoning

The **protection** and **enhancement** of natural **vegetation** in shoreland areas, especially within the shore impact zone, along lakes and streams provides **numerous benefits**. These benefits include **reducing** the potential of **erosion** due to increased runoff, **improved** fish and wildlife **habitat**, **privacy** for shoreland residents and increases to the **aesthetic values** of shoreland areas.

## Shoreline Vegetation Alterations Administrative Standards

- A. **Exemptions: No Permit Required:** The following activities are **exempt** from shoreline vegetation alterations standards and require **no** permit:
1. **Removal** of trees, shrubs, limbs, or branches that are **dead, diseased** or pose **safety hazard**.
  2. Vegetation **alteration necessary** for the construction of **permitted** structures; driveways located at the shoreline setback or greater; and permitted sewage treatment systems.
  3. **Harvesting** timber and associated reforestation activities **outside the shore** and **bluff impact zone** and on **steep slopes** is allowed if conducted consistent **with Forest Best Management Practices** developed by the State of Minnesota.
- B. **Minimum Standards for Vegetation Alteration:** The **removal** of natural vegetation **within the shore impact zone** is subject to the following standards:
1. There shall be **limited** removal, pruning and trimming of trees **to provide a view** to the water from the principal structure site and **to accommodate** the placement of **stairways**, landings, **recreation areas**, access **paths** and **watercraft access areas**.
  2. **One access path** is allowed per residential **lot or parcel** and shall **not exceed** a cleared width of **12 feet**.
  3. **One shoreline recreation area that includes the access path** shall be allowed **within the shore impact zone** per lot, parcel or group of contiguous non-conforming lots in the same ownership. The area shall **not exceed 15 feet** in depth by the **width** in the *Vegetation Alteration Maximum Width of Alteration Allowed Table*.
  4. **Authorized** removal of vegetation shall be accomplished **using human means** (for example, **hand, ax, or saw**) and shall **not** be done **by heavy equipment**.
  5. **Screening** of structures and vehicles as viewed from the water during leaf-on conditions shall **not be substantially reduced**. The **maximum view corridor** between the shore impact zone and required principal structure setback shall be **50 feet** or **30 percent** of the parcel width, whichever is less.
  6. **Forest land conversion** to another use is **allowable** as a **conditional use** if the shore and bluff impact zones are not intensively cleared and an erosion and sediment control plan is approved by the county.

# Vegetation Alteration Maximum Width of Alteration Allowed Table

Public Water Classification	Maximum Width in Feet Parallel to Shoreline
General Development	30
Recreational Development	30
Natural Environment	20
Mine Pits	30
SLC Urban Rivers	10
Trout Streams	10
Forest and Recreation Rivers	10
DNR and SLC Remote Rivers	10
Rural Agricultural Rivers	10
SLC Primitive	10
Tributaries	30

## Stormwater Management Administrative Standards

**General Minimum Standards for All Stormwater Management:** No permit shall be required for stormwater management if the following standards are met:

1. **Impervious** lot coverage shall **not exceed** the maximum lot coverage of the zone district.
2. **Existing** natural **features** that control stormwater runoff shall remain **unchanged**.
3. When areas are to be disturbed, **alterations shall** be made to **minimize** the area to be modified, control runoff velocity and reduce and/or delay runoff volume. **Sediments** shall be **retained on site** and the disturbed area shall be **stabilized** within **seven days** of completion of permitted activity.
4. **Constructed facilities** used for storm water management shall be **reviewed** by a qualified professional and **approved** by the **Director**.

## St Louis County Planning and Zoning Department

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