



It's up to you...

How you care for your lakeshore property impacts the entire lake or river system. These delicate, natural ecosystems are sustained through good environmental practices, therefore many activities in and around shoreland areas require permits or have specific guidelines to follow. Use the information in this pamphlet to find out when permits are required, and when, where, and how to get them. Also included are web addresses for many valuable online resources.

LAKE, POND, OR FLOWAGE

Shoreland = 1000 feet from OHWM*

Shoreland Protection Area = 35 feet from OHWM*

RIVER, OR STREAM

Shoreland = 300 feet from OHWM*

Shoreland Protection Area = 35 feet from OHWM*

*OHWM = Ordinary High Water Mark

Know the rules

Shoreland is defined as all property within 1000 feet of a lake, pond, or flowage, or within 300 feet of a river or stream. The *shoreland protection area* is the vegetated strip of land 35 feet wide measured perpendicular from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM). Land use activities within the shoreland area are regulated by the county or local city/village. Permitted uses vary between municipalities, and laws and restrictions may overlap.

Aquatic invasive species laws

Wisconsin Section 30.715, WI Act 16 prohibits launching a boat or placing a boat or trailer in navigable waters if it has aquatic plants or zebra mussels attached.

Polk County Ordinance 29-11 adopted in Spring, 2008, and amended in June, 2011 makes it illegal to launch a watercraft or be on a Polk County roadway with aquatic vegetation or invasive animals attached to auto, boat, trailer or equipment. Boaters must remove all aquatic plants and invasive animals before launching and before leaving the landing. Fines: \$200-\$500. For more information go to www.co.polk.wi.us/landwater.

Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR)
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Luck, WI 54853-2115



Published by Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR) in cooperation with Polk County Land and Water Resources Department and Polk County Zoning Department. PCALR's mission: To promote and preserve the natural, recreational, aesthetic, and ecological qualities of our lakes and rivers, to provide a forum for public expression, to contact and inform public officials of specific problems of our area, and to join forces, if necessary, to achieve a goal deemed crucial by the members to change political opinion and influence governmental bodies. Membership is \$10 per year for individuals, \$25 per year for organizations and groups.

For more information about PCALR go to www.pcalr.org.
To request copies of this pamphlet email president@pcalr.org.
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Who's Who...

Contacts for Your Waterfront Property Questions

Polk County, Wisconsin



Use this brochure to find the proper resources for your questions about waterfront property use, development, management, and restoration. Be sure your actions are legal and lake/river/stream friendly!

You need to know...

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT LAW: A permit is necessary for removal and harvesting of aquatic plants. Manual cutting and raking is allowed without a permit only if the area of plant removal is no more than 30 feet wide along the shoreline and any piers, lifts, rafts and other water use devices are located within that 30 feet. Wild rice may not be removed or destroyed in navigable waters without a permit. Manual removal of Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife and other invasive species does not require a permit. Mechanical cutting/harvesting or chemical treatment of aquatic plants always requires a permit.* Cut and harvested plants must be removed from the water.

POLK COUNTY SHORELAND PROTECTION ZONING ORDINANCE: The Shoreland Protection Ordinance is available from Polk County Zoning or online at www.co.polk.wi.us.

Work to improve water quality

RESTORE YOUR SHORE. Maintain a strip of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses and sedges 35 ft. wide back from the ordinary high water mark. Shoreland plantings help protect our lakes, rivers and streams from nutrients, pollutants and sediments in runoff from the land. Deep-rooted native plants can limit erosion while offering a place for wildlife.

DON'T USE PRODUCTS CONTAINING PHOSPHORUS. If you use fertilizer, the middle number in the formula on the package must be zero. Also, choose phosphorus-free soaps for laundry, dish washing and household cleaning.

VERIFY YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM IS WORKING PROPERLY. Septics can directly affect surface and ground water. Bacteria as well as nutrients and other chemicals can enter the water from improperly functioning septic systems.

THINK ABOUT YOUR ROLE AS A SHORELAND OWNER. The way you manage your property affects the entire lake ecosystem. Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR) can direct you to more resources for protecting and restoring your waterfront property.

*NR107 and NR109. See Aquatic Plant Management Law in Online Resources at the right.

QUESTIONS ABOUT	OFFICE TO CONTACT	PHONE	WEB
* Alterations to your shoreland or buffer zone: grading, riprap, vegetation removal	Wisconsin DNR Northern Region, Spooner Polk County Zoning Dept.	715-635-2101 715-485-9111	dnr.wi.gov/topic/shorelandzoning co.polk.wi.us/landinfo/zoning
* Aquatic plant management law	Wisconsin DNR Northern Region, Spooner	715-635-2101	dnr.wi.gov/lakes/plants
* Building, remodeling, boathouses, driveways, garages, fire numbers	Polk County Zoning Dept.	715-485-9111	co.polk.wi.us/landinfo/zoning
* Burning restrictions, permits	Wisconsin DNR, your town, village, or city	888-947-2876	http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestfire/restrictions.asp
Clean Boats Clean Waters, Citizen Monitoring	Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Polk County Land and Water Resources Dept.	715-346-2116 715-485-8699	uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes co.polk.wi.us/landwater
* Cutting trees and shrubs	Polk County Zoning Dept.	715-485-9111	co.polk.wi.us/landinfo/zoning
Fisheries	Wisconsin DNR Northern Region, Barron	715-637-6864	dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing
Invasive plants and animals, aquatic invasive species	Wisconsin DNR Northern Region, Spooner Polk County Land and Water Resources Dept.	715-635-2101 715-485-8699	dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives co.polk.wi.us/landwater
Lake associations, lake management	Polk County Land and Water Resources Dept.	715-485-8699	co.polk.wi.us/landwater
Lake associations, starting one	Wisconsin Lakes	608-661-4313	wisconsinlakes.org
Lake studies, data collection	Polk County Land and Water Resources Dept.	715-485-8699	co.polk.wi.us/landwater
Lake management and lake planning grants	Wisconsin DNR Northern Region, Spooner Polk County Land and Water Resources Dept.	715-635-2101 715-485-8699	dnr.wi.gov/lakes/grants co.polk.wi.us/landwater
Lake protection	Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Polk County Land and Water Resources Dept.	715-346-2116 715-485-8699	dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakespartnership co.polk.wi.us/landwater
* Piers and docks	Wisconsin DNR Northern Region, Spooner	715-635-2101	dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways/recreation/piers.html
Quiet hours, boat and jet ski use	Your lake organization, town, village, or city		
* Sanitary and septic requirements	Polk County Zoning Dept.	715-485-9111	co.polk.wi.us/landinfo/zoning
* Shoreland erosion, restoration, buffers	Polk County Land and Water Resources Dept.	715-485-8699	co.polk.wi.us/landwater
Shoreland zoning	Wisconsin DNR Northern Region, Spooner	715-635-2101	dnr.wi.gov/topic/shorelandzoning
Shoreland zoning permits in Polk County	Polk County Zoning Dept.	715-485-9111	co.polk.wi.us/zoning
Survey services and parcel mapping	Polk County Land Information Dept.	715-485-9260	co.polk.wi.us/landinfo
Wildlife habitat, hunting education	Wisconsin DNR Northern Region, Spooner	715-635-2101	dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat
* Wild rice	Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission	715-682-6619	glifwc.org
* IMPORTANT! Activities with a * may require a permit or have special guidelines to follow. Please contact the specific agency for more information.			
OTHER RESOURCES			
Environment and land use	Wisconsin Environmental Initiative	608-280-0360	weigogreener.org
Endangered resources	Wisconsin DNR		dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/biodiversity.html
National healthy watersheds	U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)		www.epa.gov/hwp
Plants identification and information	University of Wisconsin State Herbarium	608-262-2792	botany.wisc.edu/wisflora
Water quality information and education	University of Wisconsin Extension (UW)		clean-water.uwex.edu
Wisconsin lakes (just about everything)	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources		dnr.wi.gov/topic/lakes