

A QUICK GUIDE TO OWNING LAKESHORE IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

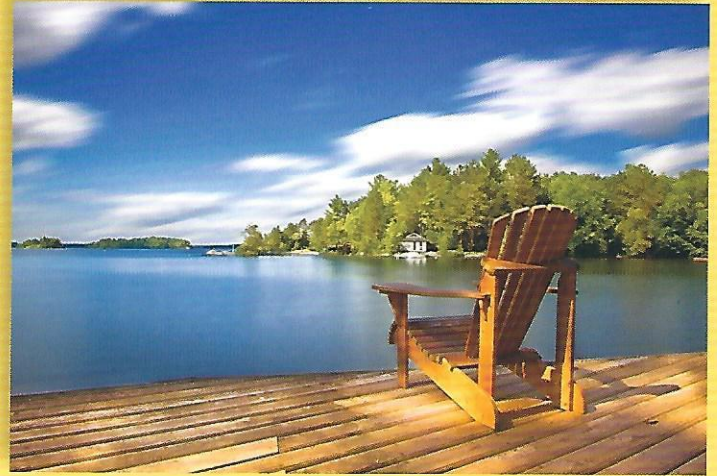
AlexAreaLakes.Org

OWNING LAKESHORE IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

Owning lakeshore in Douglas County can be one of the most rewarding experiences 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.

In recent years, development pressure has intensified along lakeshores in Douglas County and statewide. While lakeshore development allows for economic growth, it is important to balance that growth with proper lake management and protection.

Douglas County wants your entire experience to be positive so this brochure contains some of the most important items to be aware of regarding your lakeshore ownership responsibilities. A combination of regulations and personal responsibility will help ensure the quality of Douglas County lakes for all to enjoy, both now and in the future.



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION

Help us and participate, protect, & preserve our waters

Minnesota State Law Requires:

1. A 21 consecutive day drying time before placing a dock, boat lift, swim raft, or water-related equipment in another water body.
2. Remove all plants, mud, and aquatic organisms from water-related equipment.

What Can I Do?

1. Stay informed & learn what to look for. If it seems suspicious, report it.
2. Know what aquatic invasive species are in the waterbody by checking out the AlexAreaLakes.org website or the MNDNR website.
3. Volunteers are always welcome! There are volunteer programs such as AIS Detectors & Water Quality Monitors. Contact Douglas SWCD for more information.



SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Treating sewage is everyone's responsibility. Residents within towns, cities, and sewer districts have their sewage treated at a treatment plant where costs are covered by taxes, assessments, and direct charges. Residents in areas without access to municipal treatment plants own, operate, and maintain their own "mini-treatment plants" – their septic systems. A septic system is professionally designed to treat sewage for a specific home, business or group of properties. Proper treatment of sewage recycles water back into the natural environment with reduced health risks to humans and animals while preventing surface and ground water contamination. Make sure to inspect your tank and equipment regularly and follow the Douglas County rules and regulations. For more information, contact the Land and Resource Management office.

BENEFITS OF A NATIVE BUFFER

A natural buffer can be the placement of grasses, shrubs, trees, and other native vegetation along a lakeshore, or simply an area maintained. These buffers can help reinforce the shoreline, reduce erosion, intercept pollutants before reaching the lake, and

1 Erosion Prevention

Native plants have extensive root systems that can reach 5-15 feet deep! Native plants help slow down incoming waves, reduce soil erosion along the shore, and absorb runoff from your lawn before it goes into the waterbody.

2 Clean and Clear Water

Strong, sturdy and deep root systems of native plants help rain water (stormwater) soak into the soil and decrease soil compaction while filtering out pollutants from run-off.

3 Low Maintenance

Once established, native plants do not require watering, fertilizers, pesticides, or lawn maintenance equipment.

4 Long Term Savings

Most native plants species are perennials or biannual. There is no yearly replacement necessary like annual plants.

5 Aesthetically Pleasing

Native buffers can help increase the curb appeal to home and yard. Most have bright bold colors that appear in multiple seasons.

6 Provide Habitat

Butterflies, birds, bees, and other wildlife use native plants for nectar, food, and shelter.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

6

7 Abandoned Wells

Douglas County encourages and offers incentives for landowners to properly seal unused wells.

8 Septic System Maintenance

Following proper operation and maintenance guidelines will prevent costly repairs or premature replacement of your septic system. Douglas County encourages landowners with septic systems to have the systems assessed for maintenance every three years.

TERMS TO KNOW

9 Bluff Impact Zone:

Bluffs 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, so contact the Douglas County Land and Resource Management department for verification.

10 Shore Impact Zone:

Land located between the ordinary high water level of a public water and a line parallel to it at a setback of 50 percent of the structure setback. This area is critical to preserving water quality, wildlife habitat and visual screening of the developed area farther back from the shore. Buildings and accessory structures are not allowed in this area.

Shoreland District:

11 The land within 1,000 feet of a lake and 300 feet of a river or stream and the designated flood plain regulated by the Shoreland Management Act.

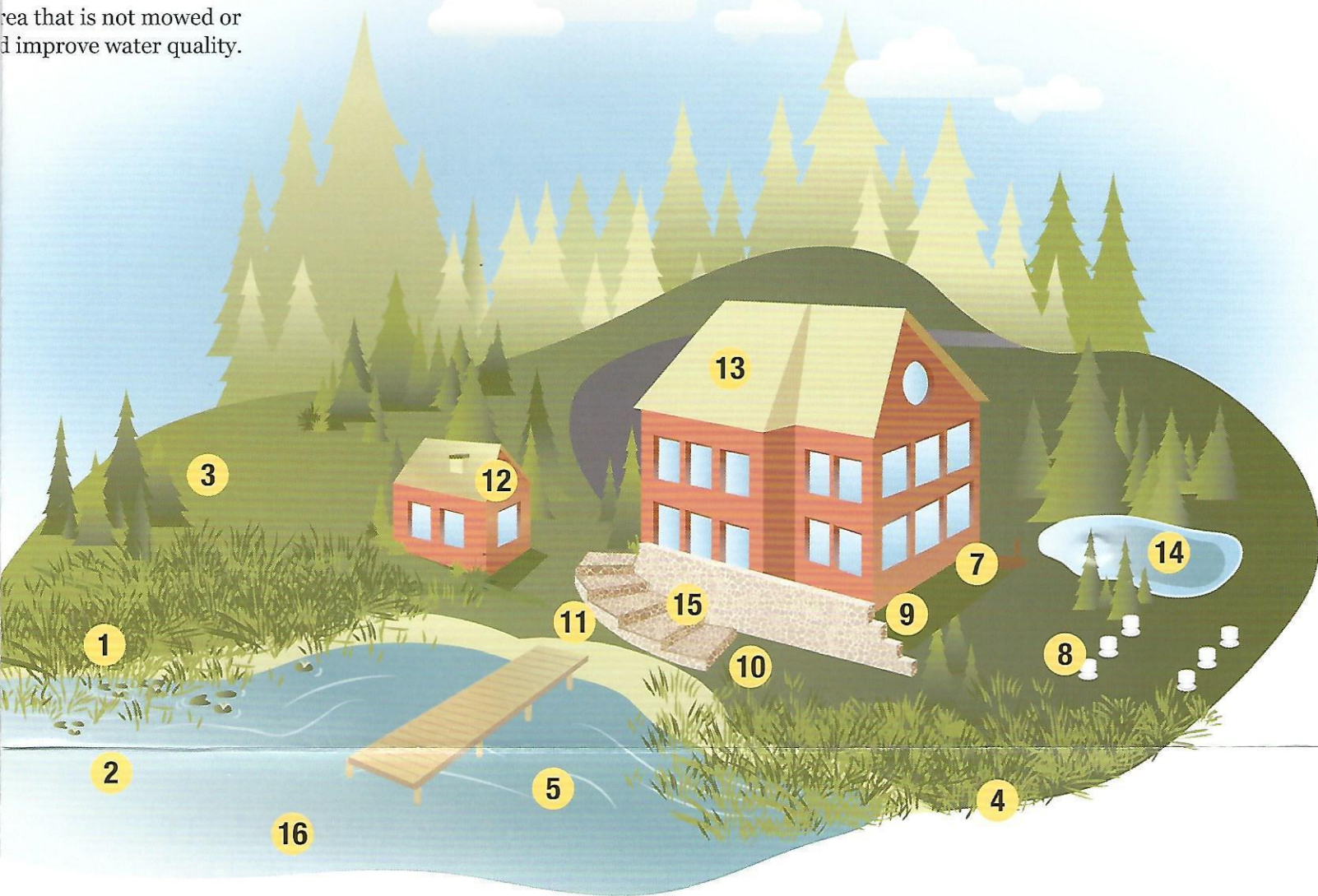
12 Impervious Surface Coverage:

13 Impervious surface coverage of lots must not exceed twenty-five (25) percent of the lot area in General and Recreational Development Shoreland or 20% of the lot area in Natural Environment Shoreland zoning. This includes, but is not limited to, buildings, sidewalks, decks, landscaping, overhangs, and driveways.

14 Wetlands:

Wetlands in Minnesota are regulated under a variety of local, state, and federal programs. Wetlands are regulated from filling & draining and have setbacks of either 25 or 50 feet depending on their classification. 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 have a question about wetlands, contact Douglas SWCD.

area that is not mowed or
and improve water quality.



PERMITS

15 Shoreland Alteration Permits Required (Douglas County)

- Retaining walls
- Ice ridge removal
- Sand beach area
- Stairs, patios, and decks
- Removal of any trees, shrubs or vegetation (limited removal) or alteration of vegetation in shore & bluff impact zones
- Movement of up to 10 cubic yards of fill or soil in the impact zones or steep slopes
- Projects of greater scope may require additional levels of permitting

16 Additional Permits Required (MN DNR)

- Any control of aquatic vegetation & the use of herbicides in public waters
- Remove the beaver lodges & dams from private lakeshore
- Place fill in a lake, many watercourses, and wetlands

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District

Wetlands, Water Quality & Buffers

320-763-3191 Ext. 3

www.douglasswcd.com

Douglas County Land & Resources Mgmt.

Land Use & Shoreland Alteration Permits

320-762-3863

www.co.douglas.mn.us/dc/land-resource.aspx

Douglas County Sheriff's Water Patrol

Water Issues & Water Structure Permits

320-762-8151

Sauk River Watershed District

www.srwdmn.org

DNR Fisheries & Wildlife Glenwood Office

Aquatic Plant Management & Hydrology

320-634-7320

AlexAreaLakes.org

AIS, Water Quality, & Shoreland Topics

Douglas County Lakes Association

www.dclamn.org

HELP PROTECT OUR QUALITY LAKES



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