OCONTO COUNTY SHORELAND DEVELOPMENT Permit #_____
CONDITIONS (within 1000 ft of a lake or 300 ft of a stream)

PERMIT CONDITIONS: **Acceptance of this permit and beginning to construct the project means that you have read, understand and agree to follow all conditions of the permit and items listed below.**

1. **This permit does not authorize parcel owners to develop/construct within the 75 ft setback of the OHWM (Ordinary High Water Mark) of a lake or stream for principal structures or any accessory structures including a garage, shed, boathouse, sidewalk, stairway, walkway, patio, deck, retaining wall, porch or firepit unless expressly exempted or permitted within the Oconto County Shoreland Ordinance and documented within this permit.**

2. **Photographs of the completed project shall be submitted to the Zoning Department within 10 days of project completion. Photos shall be taken from the shoreline and from the road that depicts the areas of the overall construction. Email photos to: lwr@co.oconto.wi.us**

3. All grading and excavation must be confined to the minimum area necessary for construction and shall not exceed the maximum areas allowed by the Oconto County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. Review the standards under 26.802 for thresholds of disturbed areas allowed by permit.

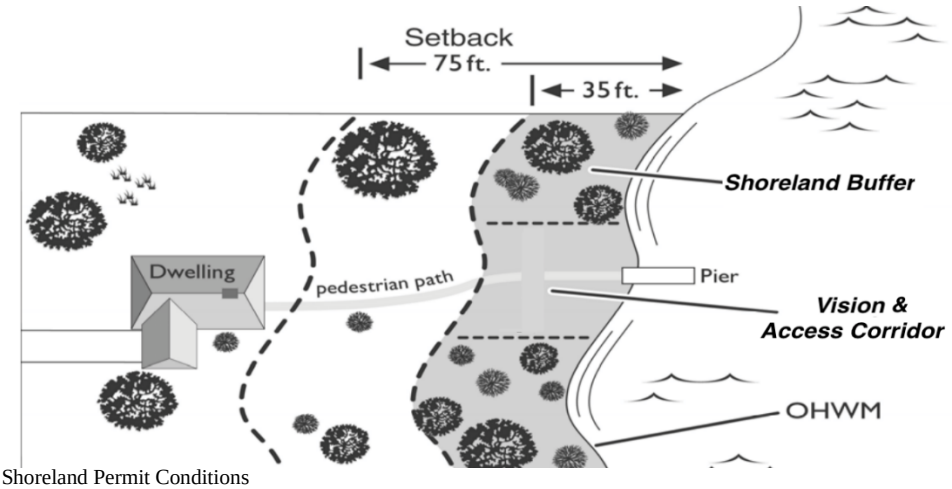
4. The project shall be constructed in a manner that prevents upland soil losses and sedimentations of the immediate site and water body. Temporary erosion control measures such as mulch, silt fence, and/or straw bales shall be used as needed and shall be put in place prior to any precipitation or if work ceases for longer than 24 consecutive hours. Any upland areas disturbed during construction shall be properly stabilized immediately following project completion by seeding and mulching.

5. This permit does not authorize any removal of aquatic or upland vegetation above or below the ordinary high watermark (OHWM) of the waterway.

6. You must comply with the **Oconto County Shoreland Vegetative Buffer Zone Standards** as noted below and details/conditions of the permit**. The vegetative buffer zone is the area that extends from the ordinary high-water mark to 35 feet landward. Removal or destruction of vegetation in the vegetative buffer zone shall be prohibited except as follows:**

    1. **Routine maintenance of vegetation which means normally accepted horticultural practices that do not result in the loss of any layer of existing vegetation and do not require earth disturbance.**

    2. **Access & Viewing Corridor: The removal or destruction of vegetation for the creation of an access and viewing corridor only can be permitted provided the following requirements are met:**
        a. **The access and viewing corridor remains a strip of vegetated land for the purpose of providing safe pedestrian access to the shore through the vegetative buffer zone.**
        b. **The access and viewing corridor may be 35% for the parcels shoreline frontage but in no case shall it be less than 10 ft or greater than 200 ft.**
        c. **The viewing corridor may run contiguously for the entire maximum width allowed based on the shoreline frontage owned.**



7. Wetland Notice to Permit Applicants
In accordance with Wisconsin State Statute 59.691, you are responsible for complying with State and Federal laws concerning construction near or on wetlands, lakes, and streams. Wetlands that are not associated with open water can be difficult to identify. Failure to comply may result in removal or modification of construction that violates the law or other penalties or costs. For more information, visit the Dept. of Natural Resources Wetland Identification Web Page located at http://dnr.wi.gov.wetlands.locating.html or contact a Dept. of Natural Resources Service Center.

8. You must always keep a copy of this permit at the project site until the project is completed.

9. You must allow Department employees access to the project site to make inspections at any time to determine whether the work is in compliance with this permit and any other legal requirements.

10. Other conditions:
_____

Note: Owners of lands or properties, occupiers of land or premises, and agents of owners or occupants including, building contractors, grading and excavating contractors and their agents, are responsible for compliance with all provisions of the Oconto County Ordinances as they pertain to this project which bear upon their area of competency and responsibility.

Any modifications or additions to this permit shall be the responsibility of the parcel owner to contact the Oconto County Zoning Department and obtain the necessary permit for said work prior to construction.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Oconto County Shoreland Vegetative Buffer Zone Standards & Maintenance

Description

The shoreland vegetative buffer consists of a naturally occurring zone of diverse native vegetation including trees, shrubs, groundcover and wetland vegetation that extends inland 35 feet from the ordinary high water mark of a lake or stream.

Purpose

Benefits of a natural shoreland vegetative buffer include:

- ❑ Reducing the intensity and impact of human activities in the near shore areas.
- ❑ Reducing the near shore use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- ❑ Filtering and infiltrating surface runoff to reduce nutrients and sediment.
- ❑ Providing increased shoreland habitat diversity and enhancing near shore habitat function for a broad range of amphibian, invertebrate, and aquatic species.
- ❑ Screening shoreland development seen from the water & improving the "natural aesthetics of the lake or stream.

Evaluation of existing buffers

Existing shoreland vegetative buffers should contain vegetation native to the area in question and the northern region of Wisconsin in general. All components including the leaf litter, ground cover, shrub and tree layer should be present. Many natural shorelands are missing a complete shrub and/or ground cover layer. These layers should be added using the methods described below.

Shoreland Vegetative Buffer Maintenance

- ❑ The decaying leaf layer on the forest floor is an important part of the forest ecosystem. This layer provides food and shelter for many insects, amphibians, and small mammals, and provides the proper conditions for seed germination. It also provides most of the buffers filtering capacity for upland runoff from roof gutters, impervious surfaces, etc. Raking, mowing or otherwise removing this layer is prohibited.
- ❑ Natural vegetation seldom requires fertilization after it is established. Added fertilizer usually benefits weeds and turf grass.
- ❑ Herbicides should only be used with great care where it is the best method to control undesirable invasive species.
- ❑ Burning to maintain buffers should be limited to areas containing prairie species. Burning may release nutrients to the water and can inhibit or kill trees and shrubs.
- ❑ Dead and downed trees provide cover and refuge for amphibians, birds and insects and should be left in place where possible. Downed trees in the water are especially valuable as they provide fish habitat and protection.
- ❑ Vehicle use damages buffer vegetation causes excessive erosion and soil compaction and should be prohibited in the shoreland buffer area. Temporary storage of boats and docks in the shoreland buffer areas should be done with care so vegetation is not destroyed.

Native Revegetation methods for shoreland vegetative buffers

Shoreland vegetation can be established through two basic methods, these include:

1. Natural recovery (Just do not mow and it will grow): Many shoreland sites will recover naturally when protected from disturbance. Potential sites for natural recovery include wet margins of lakes and streams where turf grasses are not well established, and sites with a well-developed tree canopy and existing native plants nearby to provide a seed source for shrubs and groundcover plants. Over time native plants will re-colonize the area, often sprouting from seeds and roots already in the soil. Removal of undesirable, aggressive plants in this zone will speed the process. Although slower, natural recovery is very inexpensive and may result in a more natural plant community.

2. Native Plantings: Sites where a dense well established turf has been maintained for several years, and sites lacking a native seed source usually require introducing plant species that are native to the region. This method may involve two strategies. Replace existing turf with sun-tolerant native species that typically colonize a forested floor area after disturbance has opened the canopy (allow native shrub and tree species to naturally replace these over time). The other strategy involves planting native shrub and tree species into the turf initially and once established under plant with woodland groundcover species.

Species Selection

Vegetation should consist of native species adapted to the local soils, climate and the surrounding vegetation. Non native and invasive species (e.g. purple loosestrife) are prohibited. UW Extension publication GWQ014, Shoreline Plants and Landscaping and UWEX web site. **www.uwex.edu/ces/shoreland/** or similar publications and websites may be helpful