



Kenosha County's lakes, streams and rivers are one of its greatest natural assets. As a waterfront property owner, a fisherman, a hiker/biker or park visitor, the impacts of development along these waterways can be seen. Kenosha County residents value our clean water, our canoeable streams, and the natural scenic beauty of our wooded shoreline habitats. Kenosha County has a shoreland zoning ordinance that helps protect these valuable shoreland resources through a system of regulations that require permits for activities near the lakes and rivers. Shoreland zoning regulations promote the wise use of lands surrounding our lakes and streams, protecting and enhancing our, water quality, natural scenic beauty, recreation, navigation, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Kenosha County's shoreland zoning ordinance applies to all land within 1000' of lakes, ponds, or flowages and all lands within 300' of river or streams or the extent of the floodplain, whichever is greater, within the unincorporated areas of the county. To determine if your property is within the shoreland zoning district visit http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/plandev/mapping/interactive_map.html.

The shoreland zoning ordinance regulates land use and construction. These regulations include:

- Setbacks for structures from property lines and waterways
- Minimum lot sizes and land division review.
- Restrictions on cutting of shoreline vegetation.
- Standards for dredging, grading, filling and other earth moving activities
- Regulation of septic system and wells
- Restrictions on improvements to older structures or uses that don't meet the shoreland standards

Common activities requiring a permit may involve shoreline stabilization – such as retaining walls, riprap or bio-revetment. Fill placement - designed to improve drainage or fill used in the foundation of new home construction beyond “usual and customary” amounts normally used for home site development. Dredging or removal of sediments from streams or lakebeds or dredging near the shoreline for watercraft docking. Earth movement/grading, major landscaping and berms.

For a more shoreland permit instructions/procedures and to download a fillable/printable application form visit http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/plandev/conservation/shoreland_permit_proced.html Please note most projects requiring a shoreland permit from Kenosha County will require a corresponding Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and possibly a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit and local town approvals. Kenosha County shoreland permits are not valid without the necessary Town, Federal or State permits. For more information contact:

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