



Shoreland Zoning News

Polk County has adopted a new version of the Polk County Shoreland Protection Zoning Ordinance. Some key changes in the ordinance include:

- Property owners are allowed to create a viewing corridor up to 35% of their lot width with a permit. (100' lot X .35=35' wide viewing corridor)
- Every property is allowed up to 15% impervious surface without mitigation, but mitigation is required for over 15%.
- Each parcel can have a developed pedestrian access up to 5' in width to access the water.
- Boathouses are allowed at 10' from the ordinary high water mark, and can be up to 14'x26' in size.
- Bunkhouses can be permitted with conditions
- All structures are allowed maintenance and repair without a permit such as replacing: shingles, windows, doors, and siding.
- Some nonconforming structures may be expanded if they qualify.

Please Remember:

- A land use permit is required to remove trees or vegetation within 35 feet of the water. (ordinary high water mark)
- A land use permit is required for all new construction and expansions of existing structures. A structure means a temporary or permanent principal structure or any accessory structure including a garage, shed, boathouse, sidewalk, stairway, walkway, patio, deck, retaining wall, porch, or fire pit.

Please contact the Polk County Zoning Office at: 100 Polk County Plaza Suite 130, Balsam Lake, WI 54810 or at 715-485-9279, before you begin your project so they can assist you in obtaining the necessary permits.