

VEGETATIVE ALTERATIONS

FACT SHEET

CASS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

1128 VEGETATIVE ALTERATIONS

Alterations of vegetation will be regulated to prevent erosion into Public waters, fix nutrients, preserve shoreland aesthetics, preserve historic values, prevent bank slumping and protect fish and wildlife habitat. Removal or alteration of vegetation within the building setback area requires a shoreland alteration permit.

1128.1 Steep Slopes

The Department shall evaluate possible soil erosion impacts and development visibility from Public waters before issuing a permit for vegetative alterations on steep slopes. When determined necessary, conditions may be attached to permits to prevent erosion and to preserve existing vegetation screening of structures, vehicles, and other facilities as viewed from the surface of Public waters, assuming summer, leaf-on vegetation.

1128.2 Bluff zone

No trees or shrubs shall be removed within a bluff impact zone except to accommodate the placement of stairways, landings, or access paths. Clearing width shall not exceed eight (8) feet. Pruning of trees, as approved by the Department, is allowed to provide a view to the water from the principal dwelling site.

1128.3 Shore Impact Zone -1

A shoreland alteration permit is required to remove any vegetation.

- A. All cutting shall be done by hand and topsoil is not disturbed.
- B. Clearing width shall not exceed fourteen (14) feet.
- C. Pruning of trees, as approved by the Department, is allowed to provide a view to the water from the principal dwelling site.
- D. No burning is allowed except campfires.

1128.4 Shore Impact Zone-2

- A. The removal of 25 % of trees, in a random pattern, and 100 % of shrubs requires a shoreland alteration permit.
- B. No burning is allowed except campfires

1128.6 Conditions

All vegetative alterations are subject to the following conditions:

- A. The screening of structures, vehicles, or other facilities as viewed from the water, assuming summer, leaf-on conditions, is not substantially reduced;
- B. Along rivers, existing shading of water surfaces is preserved;
- C. An erosion and sediment control plan must be approved by the Department for the project area before any construction begins.
- D. No application of commercial fertilizer containing phosphorus shall be allowed within the building setback area.