

# The 35' Zone

## Protecting the connection between land and water

Preserving and protecting a corridor of native vegetation, also known as a *buffer* (within 35 feet of the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM)), is important for the protection of water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and natural scenic beauty in our lakes and rivers.



### What can't you do?

Generally, anything that is going to **cause losses in vegetation or earth disturbances** is prohibited.

Check what permits might be needed and what you can do to help improve the buffer zone.



**Before you use any pesticide, always read and follow the label directions.**

**Some are specially formulated** for use in and around waterways, while others cannot be used near water.

**Permits or licenses may be required** if applying near water. Contact the Wisconsin DNR for permits for pesticide use near water.  
[dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes/plants/forms](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes/plants/forms)

**Follow the label for** pesticide application. Rain can wash chemicals off the site into drains or waterways.

**Check with the Walworth County Land Use and Resource Management Department to find out what permits may be required.**

**For any vegetation removal**, such as cutting, trimming trees and shrubs and/or using herbicides on vegetation, you must obtain a permit from Walworth County.

[www.co.walworth.wi.us/365/Land-Use-Resource-Management](http://www.co.walworth.wi.us/365/Land-Use-Resource-Management)

**Removing trees that are dead, dying, or diseased** requires an Exemption Certificate from Walworth County. Consider mitigating the tree's removal by planting a native tree.

## CONTACT US



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Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
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## What can you do?

**Improve your shoreland property** with resources from *Healthy Lakes and Rivers*. Grant money is available: [healthylakeswi.com](http://healthylakeswi.com)

**Encourage pollinator habitats** with a diverse collection of plantings and reduce or **eliminate pesticide use**.

**On steep slopes**, leave natural vegetation in place to stabilize soils and reduce the need for retaining walls or other erosion prevention.

**Allow natural regeneration** of native plant species.

**Plant native plant species** and properly maintain them.

## Additional Resources

**There are many resources available** to help you improve your shoreline while balancing the needs of the lake and your yard.

Here are just a few:

Lakeshore Resource Guide for Walworth County  
[go.wisc.edu/3vf36a](http://go.wisc.edu/3vf36a)

Resources for Waterfront Property Owners  
[dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/ShorelandZoning/Care/explore.html](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/ShorelandZoning/Care/explore.html)

Shoreline Stabilization: A Guide for Homeowners  
[wisconsinlandwater.org/assets/documents/Shoreline-Stabilization-Guide-for-Homeowners\\_Print-Version.pdf](http://wisconsinlandwater.org/assets/documents/Shoreline-Stabilization-Guide-for-Homeowners_Print-Version.pdf)

Wisconsin's Healthy Lakes and Rivers  
[healthylakeswi.com](http://healthylakeswi.com)

