Who has regulatory authority in the Shoreland Zone?

The shoreland zone is defined as the land within 1,000 feet of a lake and 300 feet of a river or stream plus the near shore waters.

For any actions in the water or on the land below the ordinary high water level (OHWL) of a public water (lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands), check with the appropriate Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) office for permits that may be required.

For any actions on the land above the OHWL (the upland areas of your property) and within the shoreland zone, contact the appropriate county or city office.

How do I know where the Ordinary high water level (OHLW) is? For lakes and wetlands, the OHWL is the highest water level that has been maintained for a sufficient period of time to leave evidence on the landscape; it is not necessarily the highest place the water has been. It is commonly that point where the natural vegetation changes from predominantly aquatic to predominantly terrestrial.

If there is a question about the OHWL on your property, contact the DNR Area Hydrologist.



