



# Shoreland Stewardship Scorecard

SHORELAND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

NUMBER 17 IN THE SERIES

## What Are Shoreland BMPs?

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are actions you can take to reduce your impact on the environment. BMPs have been developed for agriculture, forest management, and home construction. This fact sheet describes BMPs you can adopt on shoreland property to help protect water quality.

**This fact sheet summarizes BMPs from the entire series. Check off practices as YOU adopt them and measure your success as a shoreland steward.**

## Practices to Adopt

### Maintaining Your Septic System/Conserving Water

- ☐ Repair leaking pipes and dripping faucets
- ☐ Shorten shower times
- ☐ Install low-flow showerheads/low-flush toilets
- ☐ Eliminate use of garbage disposal
- ☐ Wash only full loads—dishes and laundry
- ☐ Switch to liquid laundry detergent
- ☐ Pump septic tank through manhole instead of inspection port
- ☐ Pump septic tank annually
- ☐ Other, what? \_\_\_\_\_

### Ensure Safe Drinking Water Supply

- ☐ Test water every two years
- ☐ Disinfect well and plumbing after maintenance
- ☐ Identify location, type, and depth of well
- ☐ Properly seal well that is no longer used
- ☐ Evaluate the condition of wellhead and improve if needed
- ☐ Other, what? \_\_\_\_\_

## Limiting Recreational Impact on Water Quality

- ☐ Stop washing dishes, laundry, self in lake while camping
- ☐ Move fuel from nearshore location to secure site away from shore
- ☐ Properly dispose of wastewater when boating and ice fishing
- ☐ Eliminate greywater lines from sauna to lake or river
- ☐ Realign dock to permit better water flow; minimize shoreline alteration when installing new dock
- ☐ Observe dates regulating off-road traffic in the spring
- ☐ Make a conscious effort to avoid erosion problems from off-road recreation
- ☐ Contact DNR before trying to remove aquatic vegetation
- ☐ Quit using soap or shampoo in the water
- ☐ Inspect boats and equipment before taking them to another water body
- ☐ Preserve aquatic vegetation in developing new property
- ☐ Develop a beach site with minimal shoreline alteration
- ☐ Adjust speed to reduce wake and minimize wave damage to shore
- ☐ Consider existing natural characteristics of property before designing shoreland development
- ☐ Other, what? \_\_\_\_\_

## Developing Shoreland Landscapes/Construction

- \_\_\_\_\_ Develop a site plan **before** beginning construction or landscaping
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develop a site plan to improve the landscape
- \_\_\_\_\_ Re-establish or preserve a filter strip along the shore
- \_\_\_\_\_ Minimize disturbance of plants and trees during construction
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plant native trees and shrubs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Carefully plan new roads and accesses
- \_\_\_\_\_ Install "water bars" to slow runoff along roads and paths
- \_\_\_\_\_ Protect trees during construction
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plan construction in stages to minimize runoff and erosion of uncovered soil
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other, what? \_\_\_\_\_

## Stabilizing Shoreline to Prevent Erosion

- \_\_\_\_\_ Retain moisture-absorbing vegetation along bluffs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Move heavy loads back away from bluffs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Retain ice ridges along the shore
- \_\_\_\_\_ Install erosion control structure; improve shoreline protection
- \_\_\_\_\_ Divert water away from top of bluff
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other, what? \_\_\_\_\_

## Minimizing Runoff from Shoreland Property

- \_\_\_\_\_ Reduce paved or covered areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use gravel instead of paving driveways
- \_\_\_\_\_ Limit clearing and grading on slopes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Locate new driveways, walks, and footpaths away from slopes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Relocate footpaths and walkways to less steep areas; install steps on paths cutting up and down hillsides
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use erosion control structures during construction and landscaping
- \_\_\_\_\_ Install rain gutters along edge of rooftops and keep them free of debris to drain properly
- \_\_\_\_\_ Keep rooftops free of snow and ice buildup
- \_\_\_\_\_ Replace solid concrete patios with wood or paving stones to minimize runoff
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sweep driveways and walks instead of washing them down with water
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other, what? \_\_\_\_\_

## Caring for Lawns and Gardens

- \_\_\_\_\_ Test soil to determine plant nutrients needed before applying fertilizer to lawn and garden
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use compost or manure in recommended amounts instead of chemical fertilizer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use extra caution when spreading fertilizer near surface water; do not spread within 75 feet of water or wetland
- \_\_\_\_\_ Retain a natural vegetation filter strip of grass, trees, and shrubs next to shoreline
- \_\_\_\_\_ Obtain proper identification of pest before applying any pesticide (for weeds, insects, mold, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Follow recommendations for low-maintenance guidelines in fertilizing grass
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use slow-release form of nitrogen in fertilizing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Locate new garden or relocate old garden on level site, and avoid planting in septic drainfield
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prevent yard waste from reaching the water
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other, what? \_\_\_\_\_

## Managing Your Shoreland Woodlot

- \_\_\_\_\_ Establish filter strip between shoreline and area being managed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develop a plan, including a detailed map, before beginning management activity
- \_\_\_\_\_ Install roads in locations with lowest slope
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use barriers to prevent erosion during road building; mulch and seed exposed soil
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contact DNR Division of Waters to see if a protected water permit is needed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use properly sized culverts or bridges to cross stream at 90° angle
- \_\_\_\_\_ Design roads for maximum cross drainage to minimize downroad flow
- \_\_\_\_\_ Close all temporary roads to prevent unwanted use
- \_\_\_\_\_ Locate landings outside filter strips and away from low, poorly drained areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Time harvest appropriately
- \_\_\_\_\_ Properly dispose of slash away from wetland areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do not conduct mechanical site preparation during periods of saturated soil conditions
- \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit residue from mechanical site preparation in upland areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Create slash piles that do not interfere with natural drainage
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other, what? \_\_\_\_\_

## Valuing Your Shoreland Trees

- \_\_\_\_\_ Plan development of property to save existing vegetation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use filter strips adjacent to shoreline to minimize runoff to water
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contact local zoning office for filter strip requirements before developing new area
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contact local zoning office for information on thinning trees in shoreland area
- \_\_\_\_\_ Protect existing trees during site development
- \_\_\_\_\_ Check for and treat pests and diseases on trees and shrubs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Water trees during times of low rainfall or after planting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use a variety of native species in new plantings
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rake leaves and vegetative debris away from the water
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use lake water to water trees, shrubs, and lawn
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other, what? \_\_\_\_\_

## Preserving Wetlands

- \_\_\_\_\_ Preserve existing drainageways during land alterations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Avoid filling or draining any wetlands during land alteration
- \_\_\_\_\_ Avoid diverting storm water to any wetland
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do not use wetland as a dumping ground
- \_\_\_\_\_ Establish boardwalks to avoid compacting wetland areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Preserve unique wetland vegetation for habitat
- \_\_\_\_\_ Correctly identify a wetland area before beginning land alteration
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contact the SWCD for assistance in determining wetland boundaries
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other, what? \_\_\_\_\_

## Managing Crops and Animals Near Shorelands

- \_\_\_\_\_ Follow pesticide labels when used
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prevent runoff from feedlots or manure storage from entering surface waters
- \_\_\_\_\_ Divert water from manure storage or feedlot away from shoreland
- \_\_\_\_\_ Control soil erosion by adopting crop rotation or seeding critical areas to grass

## Reducing the Use of Hazardous Household Products

- \_\_\_\_\_ Change buying habits to purchase fewer products that might become hazardous household waste
- \_\_\_\_\_ Learn what the safety information and signal words on product labels mean
- \_\_\_\_\_ Carefully follow label instructions for use and storage of all household products
- \_\_\_\_\_ Properly dispose of banned or unusable pesticides
- \_\_\_\_\_ Move paints and pesticides from unheated buildings to an area where they will not freeze and become waste
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recycle used motor oil and dispose of antifreeze and other automotive fluids properly

- \_\_\_\_\_ Recycle button batteries
- \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase alkaline or rechargeable batteries
- \_\_\_\_\_ Take hazardous household products such as paint, solvents, thermometers, and other mercury-containing products to a designated collection site

## Preventing Introduction of Exotics

- \_\_\_\_\_ Learn to identify exotic species
- \_\_\_\_\_ Learn whom to contact if exotic species are found or suspected
- \_\_\_\_\_ Help educate other people about preventing the spread of exotics
- \_\_\_\_\_ Always drain livewells, bilge water, and transom wells before leaving a boat landing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Always empty bait buckets on land, never in the water
- \_\_\_\_\_ Never dip bait buckets into a lake when they contain water from another lake
- \_\_\_\_\_ Never dump live fish from one water body into another
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wash boat, tackle, downriggers, and trailer with hot water between uses on different water bodies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Flush hot water through motor's cooling system and other boat parts that come in contact with lake water between uses
- \_\_\_\_\_ Let boat and equipment dry for five days before transporting boat to another body of water
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other, what? \_\_\_\_\_

## Accessing Water Quality Information

- \_\_\_\_\_ Call a state agency's regional office for technical assistance
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contact a local agency to get questions answered or to apply for a permit

## How good a shoreland steward are YOU?

### If you checked off

More than 80 BMPs  
60-80 BMPs  
40-59 BMPs  
25-39 BMPs  
11-24 BMPs  
1-10 BMPs

### You're...

Awesome  
Doing a great job  
Well on your way  
Starting off right  
Behind the times  
Get Started Today!

## PART OF A SERIES...

This fact sheet is one of a series designed to assist shoreland property owners in protecting and preserving water quality. The series includes:

- 1 Understanding Shoreland BMPs
- 2 Maintaining Your Shoreland Septic System
- 3 Installing a Shoreland Septic System
- 4 Ensuring a Safe Water Supply
- 5 Limiting Impact of Recreation on Water Quality
- 6 Developing Shoreland Landscapes and Construction Activities
- 7 Stabilizing Your Shoreline to Prevent Erosion
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This series of fact sheets is a cooperative effort of the following agencies:

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Division of Waters, Division of Forestry  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
Minnesota Sea Grant Extension Program  
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