

Lakeshore Resource Guide for Walworth County

Website: This guide is available on the Walworth County Land Use and Resource Management website: <https://www.co.walworth.wi.us/365/Land-Use-Resource-Management>

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For questions about this guide, please contact Julie Hill at julie.hill@wisc.edu

Contributors:

Rich Charts, Walworth County Lakes Association and Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District; Josie Hanrahan, formerly Walworth County Land Use; Jill Hapner, Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC), Julie Hill, UW-Madison - Division of Extension; Rory Klick, Kettle Moraine Land Trust; Suzanne Markus, Lauderdale Lake Improvement Association, Heather Marquardt, Senior Urban Conservation Technician, Walworth County Land Use; Maddie Olivieri, Geneva Lakes Conservancy; Elisabeth Partyka, Lauderdale Lake Improvement Association; Patrick Siwula, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR); Theresa Stegemann, Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District; Bill Thummel, Delavan Lake Improvement Association; Kiera Theys, Geneva Lakes Conservancy

The ***Lakeshore Resource Guide for Walworth County*** is designed to provide lakeshore property owners, managers, residents, and those that work on those properties in Walworth County, WI the resources they need to know about living on, managing, and working on these properties for the benefit of the lakeshore environment. Construction, landscaping, yard maintenance, lawn care and other practices are different for lakeshore properties. Practices that you might have done on a suburban or urban property can be detrimental to the lake environment, so lakeshore properties need to be managed and maintained to preserve the shoreline, water quality, and overall lake environment.

How to Use this Guide: This guide is a collection of links to credible and trustworthy resources that are free from bias and backed by research and evidence. They are organized by the categories listed in the Table of Contents. You will find additional useful information on the websites linked in this guide.

Aquatic Plant Management (APM):

In order to protect diverse and stable communities of native aquatic plants and prevent the spread of invasive aquatic plants, aquatic plant management and nuisance control activities require a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permit.

- The Potter Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (PLPRD) works directly with the DNR and consultant, Lake and Pond Solutions LLC, regarding water quality monitoring and permits to chemically treat our lake with herbicides as well as permits for weed harvesting.
- It is highly recommended that shoreline property owners first confirm if a permit is required before engaging in any private aquatic plant management or shoreline project.
- A submitted permit is not a guarantee to move forward with an APM or shoreline project. It's simply a request subject to review and approval by the DNR and/or county depending on the scope of the project.

Table of Contents

[Useful Definitions](#)

[General Information](#)

- Protecting and Restoring Shorelands
- Best Practices and Regulations for Shoreline Property Owners
- Protecting Your Waterfront Investment
- Shoreline Living Publication
- Walworth County Lakes Program - Homeowner Guide
- Understanding Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM)

[Landscaping Practices](#)

[Lawn Care](#)

- Wisconsin's Phosphorus Rule
- Lawn to Lake, Midwest – Natural lawn care quiz

[Shoreline Gardens](#)

- Shoreline Alterations: Natural Buffers and Lakescaping
- Managing the Water's Edge, Making Natural Connections - Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC)
- A Homeowners Guide to Native Shoreline Gardens
- NRCS Wisconsin Biology Technical Note 1: Shoreland Habitat
- Rain Gardens – A Guide for Homeowners and Landscapers
- DNR General Yard Care “Do Your Share”
- Storm Water Construction Technical Standard
- Storm Water Post-Construction Technical Standard

[Healthy Lakes and Rivers - https://healthylakeswi.com](https://healthylakeswi.com)

- Choosing Best Practices: What's right for your property?
- Shoreland Evaluation Tool - “Score My Shore”
- Decision Tool: Managing Runoff with Healthy Lakes and Rivers Practices
- Self-Evaluation Checklist for Waterfront Runoff
- Controlling Runoff and Erosion from Your Waterfront Property
- Healthy Lakes 350 2Ft Native Planting Companion Guide
- Fish Sticks Guide

[Healthy Lakes and Rivers Fact Sheets](#)

- Diversion
- Fish Sticks
- Native Plantings
- Rain Garden
- Rock Infiltration

[Invasive species \(both aquatic and terrestrial\)](#)

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - Invasive Species
- Invasive Species Terminology - prohibited/restricted/caution/non-restricted
- Terrestrial Invasive Species
- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Zebra Mussels
- Wetland Invasive Species
- Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium, Inc. (SEWISC)

Property Development

When starting any project, contact the [Walworth County Land Use and Resource Management Department](#) *first* to find out what permits might be needed because there are specific regulations and permitting requirements for lakefront property.

Permitting

- Shoreland/Wetland Zoning, What the Landowner Needs to Know
- Walworth County Shoreland Zoning Guide
- Walworth County Conservation Plan Guide and Example
- WI-DNR Riprap Erosion Control (may require a DNR permit, requires a Walworth County Land Disturbance/Erosion Control permit)
- WI-DNR Withdrawals and Irrigation (may require a DNR permit, requires a Walworth County Land Disturbance/Erosion Control permit)
- Walworth County (LURM) Shoreland Zoning Summary Guide
- Walworth County (LURM) Land Disturbance, Erosion Control and Storm Water
- Technical Standard – Permeable Pavement 1008

Construction Erosion Control Guides

- Erosion Control for Home Builders
- Wisconsin Construction Site Erosion Control Field Guide
- Additional erosion control resources available from Extension Lakes

Piers, docks, boathouses and buoys

Be aware that there are specific ordinances relating to building *any* structures along the shoreline. These ordinances have changed over time and many homeowners have structures that might be grandfathered in based on previous ordinances. Don't assume that because you see something on your neighbor's property that new construction of the same would be allowed under current regulations. Contact the [Walworth County Land Use and Resource Management Department](#) with questions.

- WI-DNR, piers, docks and buoys
- WI-DNR Pier Planner
- Boat Shelters
- Boat Houses

Questions to Ask When Hiring a Professional

Educational Resources

- Extension Lakes, UW Stevens Point College of Natural Resources - <https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/default.aspx>
- Geneva Lakes Conservancy - <https://genevalakeconservancy.org/>
- Kettle Moraine Land Trust (KMLT) - <https://kmlandtrust.org/>
- Walworth County Land Use & Resource Management (LURM) - <https://www.co.walworth.wi.us/365/Land-Use-Resource-Management>
- Wild Ones - Kettle Moraine Chapter - <https://kmwildones.wixsite.com/kmwildones>
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>
- Wisconsin Native Plant Nurseries - <https://widnr.widen.net/s/rfsbfc22w6/nh0698>
- Wisconsin Restoration Consultants - <https://widnr.widen.net/s/ccwrwvshvh/nh0699>
- University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension Horticulture Program - <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu>
- Urban Wildlife Project - <https://urbanwildlifeproject.wisc.edu/>

Grants and Funding Opportunities

The following two websites are grant programs for lakeshore properties.

- WI DNR Surface Water Grants, <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/SurfaceWater.html>
- Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grants, <https://healthylakeswi.com/grants/>