

Score your Shore

A Citizen Assessment of Developed Lake Lots



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Ecological and Water Resources
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We love our views of the lakes,
but are we loving our lakes to death?



Lake view



Lot view

Extensive vegetation removal
results in increased nutrient runoff,
shoreline erosion, limited wildlife
habitat.

Lake lots can be developed with minimal impact to vegetation.



Lake view

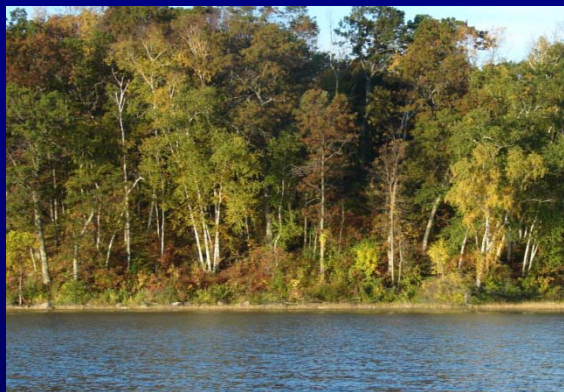


Lot view

Vegetation reduces nutrient runoff and shoreline erosion, and provides privacy screen and wildlife habitat.

Shoreland Stewardship

Protection



Wildflower planting



**Where do
I start ?**

No-Mow Buffer Zone



Tree Planting



Score your Shore

a simple tool to assess condition of
developed shorelines



- Self-assessment
- Non-biologists
- Rapid “snapshot” survey
- Low tech
- Standard criteria

Score your Shore

Objectives

- Assess remaining habitat at developed sites
- Generate awareness of what makes a high quality buffer
- Recognize and promote good stewardship
- Identify potential sites for restoration

SCORE YOUR SHORE

CITIZEN SHORELINE DESCRIPTION SURVEY

VERSION 1. JUNE 2010



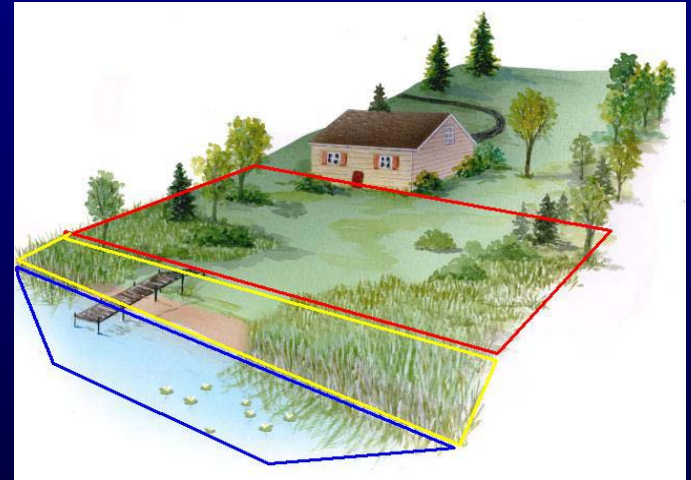
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User Manual

Score your Shore

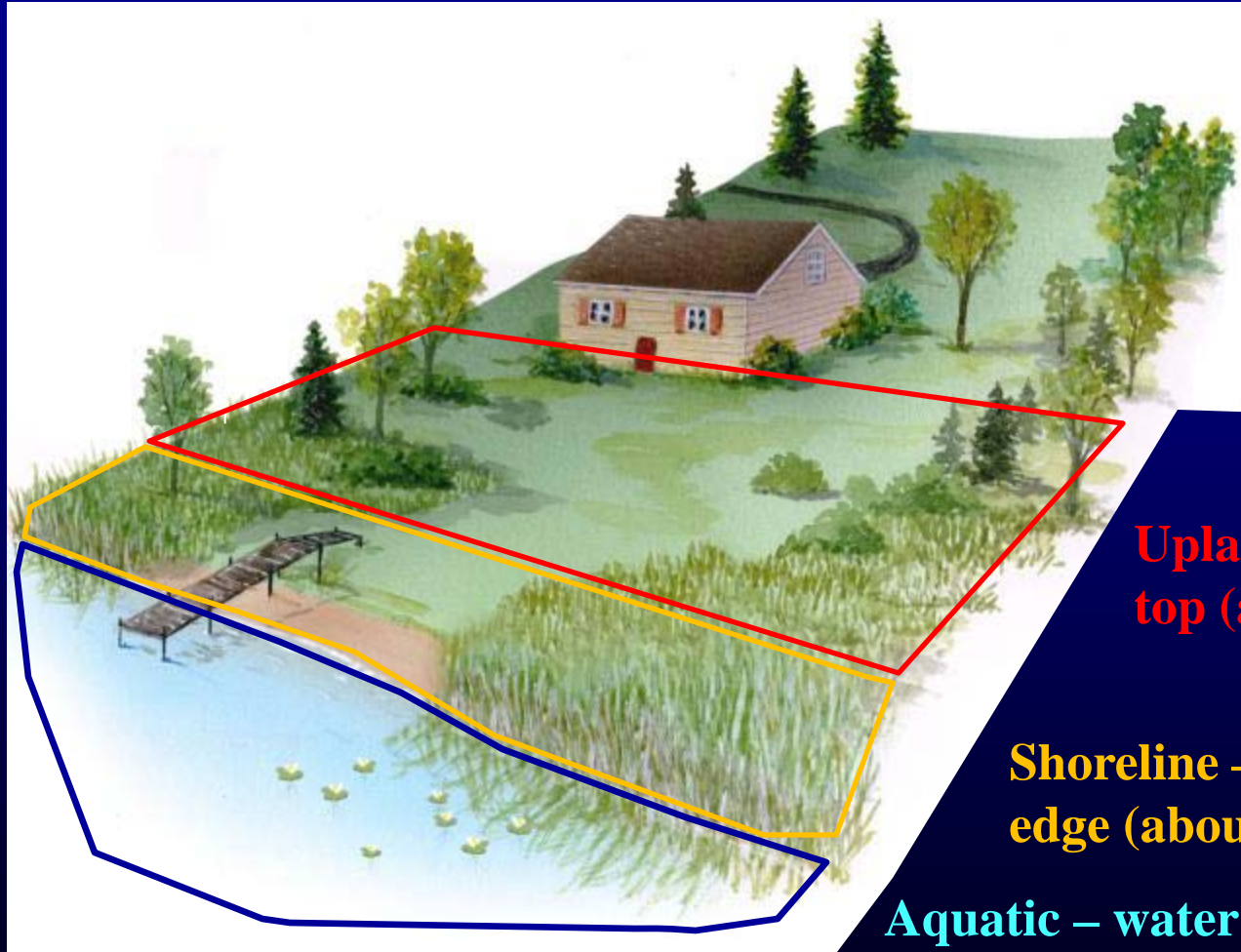


Quick Guide

Available online at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/scoreyourshore>



3 Habitat zones at site



Upland – house to bank top (about 2/3rds of lot)

Shoreline – bank top to water's edge (about 1/3rd of lot)


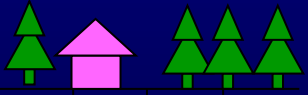
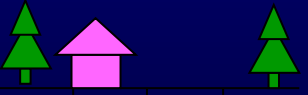
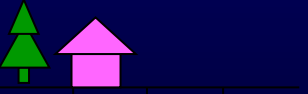
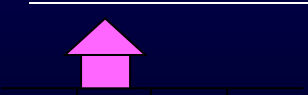
Aquatic – water's edge to deep end of weed bed (or to 15 feet depth)

Points are assigned to each zone based on how much habitat remains

Zone	Score-able features	Possible points	Total possible points
Upland	Trees	25	65
	Shrubs	20	
	Ground Cover	15	
Shoreline	Trees/Shrubs	20	35
	Ground Cover	15	
Aquatic	Emergent/Floating-leaf	40	100
	Submerged	35	
	No un-natural channels	5	
	Overhead woody habitat	10	
	Downed woody habitat	10	

Sites with more habitat score more points

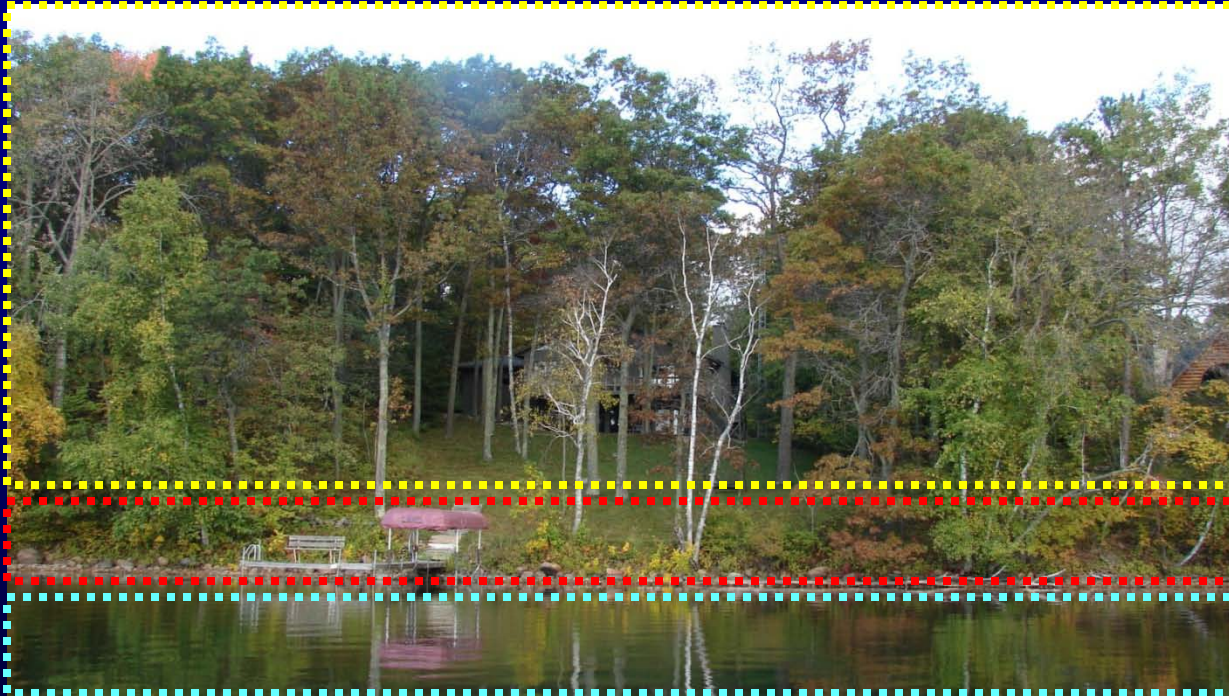
Example – Upland zone: tree cover

	% of lot with trees	Points
	75-100%	25
	50-74%	18
	25-49%	13
	1-24%	5
	0%	0

How to Score: Example Lot



Step 1: Identify 3 habitat zones

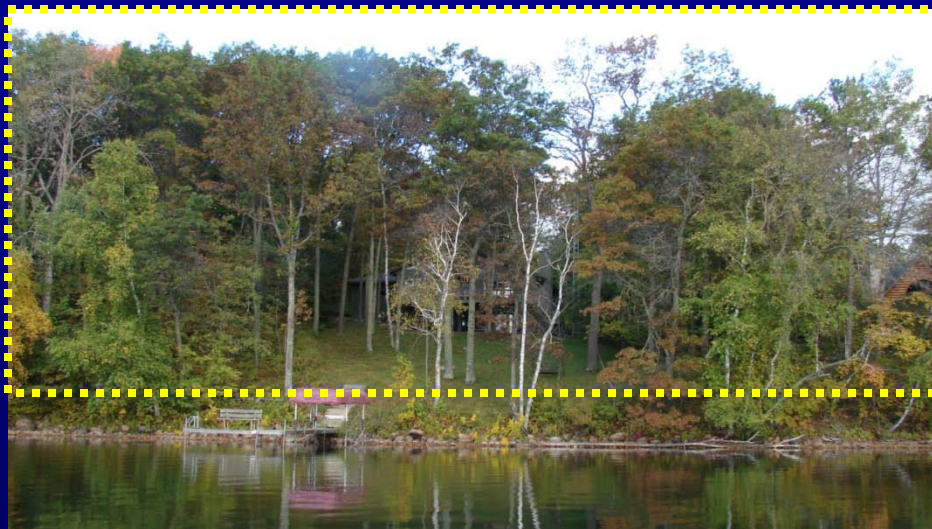


Upland

Shoreline

Aquatic

Step 2: Score Upland Zone



	% of lot with trees	points
	75-100	25
	50-74	18
	25-49	13
	1-24	9
	0	0

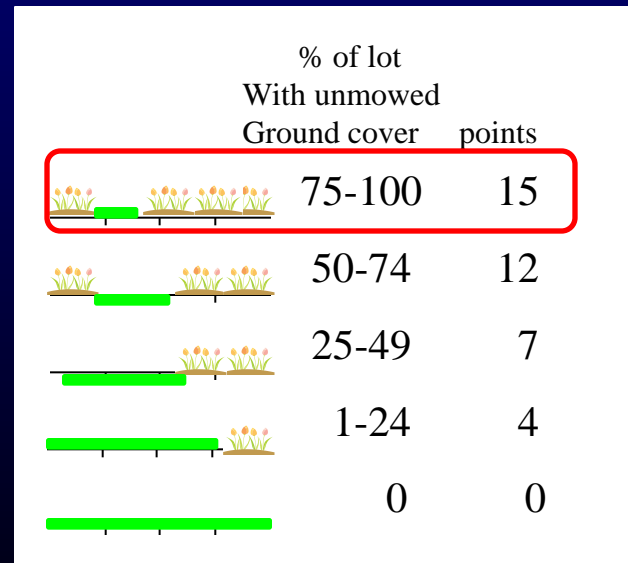
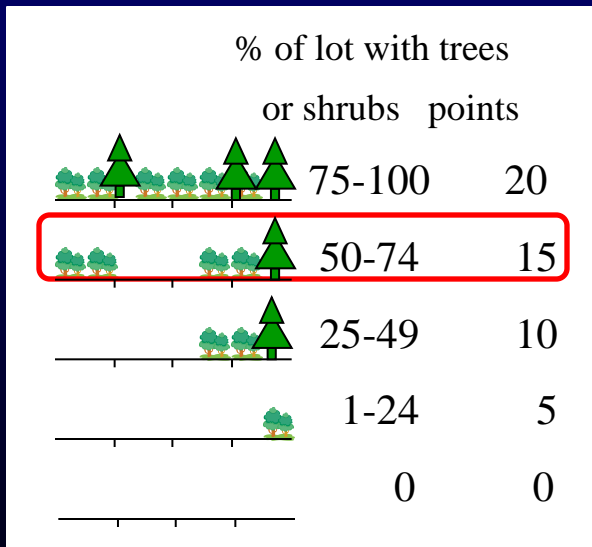
	% of lot with shrubs	points
	75-100	20
	50-74	15
	25-49	10
	1-24	5
	0	0

	% of lot With unmowed Ground cover	points
	75-100	20
	50-74	15
	25-49	10
	1-24	5
	0	0

25
+15
+15

55 points

Step 3: Score Shoreline Zone



15
+15

30 points

Step 4: Score Aquatic Zone

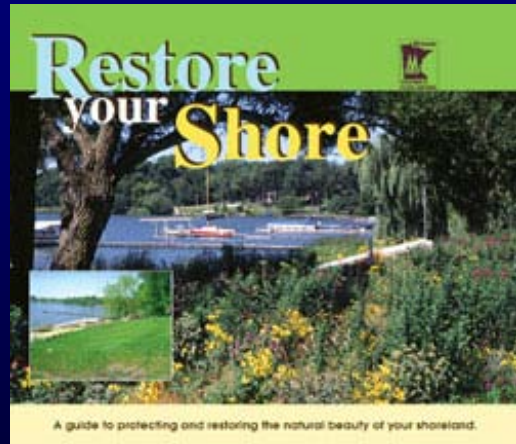


Attribute	Max Score
1. Emergent / Floating-leaf	40
2. Submerged	35
3. Continuous plant beds (no man-made openings)	5
4. Overhead woody habitat	10
5. Downed woody habitat	10

Step 5:



- Identify high score sites for awards
- Recommend lower score sites for restoration
- Set lakewide goals for habitat improvement (ex. increase average score by 10 points over next 3 years).



Before you plant in the lake:

- Contact DNR (a no-cost aquatic plant management permit is necessary if planting will occur in public waters; DNR staff can provide advice to prevent accidental non-native introductions).
- Compare your lake lot with a nearby undeveloped lot. Some shorelines may have natural sand beaches or rocky shores and attempts to “replant” may not be needed.
- For more information on lakeshore restoration:
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakescaping/index.html>

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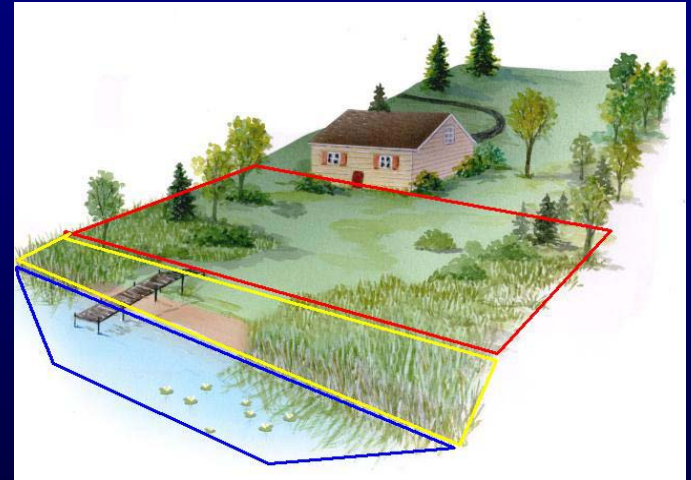
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