

Septic System Innovative Standards

Part of a series highlighting innovative local government standards intended to help encourage adoption of more protective shoreland standards.



Benefits

- Reduces bacteria entry into surface waters
- Reduces risk of bluff failures
- Reduces risk of seepage from bluffs and steep slopes

Types of Approaches

1. Septic Setbacks from Bluffs 1
2. Septic Setbacks from the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL)..... 2

The ordinance language used in these examples varies significantly depending on complexity of the issue and method of implementation. In straight forward cases, actual ordinance language is provided. In complex examples, the key provisions are summarized. Please contact the planning and zoning staff with the relevant community if you have questions about the specific ordinance provisions.

1. Septic Setbacks from Bluffs

LeSueur County

Subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS) shall be set back thirty (30) feet from the top or toe of the bluff. For an existing dwelling, SSTS upgrade and/or replacement tank(s):

1. shall be exempt from bluff setback
2. may be located within the bluff impact zone
3. shall not be located within the bluff

Ordinance Citation: Section 13.1, Subd. 5(F) – Special Protection District; Section 13.2, Subd. 5(F) – Recreational Residential District; Section 13.3, Subd. 5(F) – Recreational Commercial District.

2. Septic Setbacks from the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL)

Beltrami County

Waterbody Classification	Shoreland Standard	County Standard
General Development Lakes	50 ft.	75 ft.
Recreational Development Lakes	75 ft.	100 ft.
Remote River	150 ft.	200 ft.
Forested River	100 ft.	150 ft.
Tributary River	75 ft.	100 ft.

Ordinance Citation: Sections 503.4 to 503.8

City of Detroit Lakes

Waterbody Classification	Shoreland Standard	County Standard
General Development Lakes	50 ft.	75 ft.
Recreational Development Lakes	75 ft.	100 ft.
Urban River	75 ft.	100 ft.
Forested River	100 ft.	200 ft.

Ordinance Citation: Section 6.41 A.

Washington County

Waterbody Classification	Shoreland Standard	County Standard
General Development Lakes	50 ft.	75 ft.
Transition River	100 ft.	150 ft.
Tributary River	75 ft.	150 ft.
Unclassified Waters	N/A	75 ft.

Ordinance Citation: Chapter 6, Section 8.1