

ONEIDA COUNTY
PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shoreland Zoning Requirements in Oneida County

Oneida County has one of the largest concentrations of lakes, rivers and streams in the world. This is a unique and valuable resource. In order to help preserve this resource for tourism, our local economy, and future generations, the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance framework was created for all counties in the State.

The Oneida County Planning and Zoning Department (OCPZ) wishes to have riparian owners, landscapers, builders, contractors, tree services, etc. aware of the need to contact the Planning and Zoning Department before starting any project within 200 feet of the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) of a lake, river, or stream, and especially within 75 feet OHWM.

The OCPZ is involved in many incidents each year, where well-intended "Shoreyard" projects are started without consulting with OCPZ. Permits are almost always required.

Examples of structures that are allowed within 75 feet of the OHWM (with a permit) are:

- ∞ Stairways and Walkways;
- ∞ "Dry" Boathouses;
- ∞ Gazebos, Decks, Patios, and "Screen Houses"

Examples of structures not permitted within 75 feet of the OHWM:

- ∞ "Structured" Fire pits;
- ∞ Sheds;
- ∞ Retaining Walls;
- ∞ Stairways and Walkways that are excavated more than one foot below grade;

In addition, there are specific requirements for vegetation removal, especially within 35 feet of the OHWM. Please contact the OCPZ before removal/trimming of trees, shrubs, and other plants within 35 feet of the OHWM.

Please contact the OCPZ with questions regarding your Spring, 2022 projects. You will avoid After-The-Fact permit fees, and will reduce the number of complaints the OCPZ receives, that often result in additional costs to property owners. Please look for announcements regarding for OCPZ presentations related to Shoreland Zoning this winter. The Planning and Zoning Department web site is: <https://www.co.oneida.wi.us/departments/pz/>