Land Use Permits
Land Use Planning and Zoning Department
Green Lake County, WI
(920) 294-4156

What needs a permit?
✓ Any land-disturbing activity within 1,000ft of a lake or flowage, or within 300ft of a river or stream
✓ Siting of any structure in a zoned town
✓ Patios, walkways, fire pits, boathouses, gazebos
✓ Driveways on waterfront lots
✓ New homes, home additions, garages, sheds
✓ New and replacement stairways, walkways, landings, railings, and similar structures
✓ Landscaping that incorporates any hardscape
✓ Fences and retaining walls

What does NOT need a land use permit?
X Pier or dock installation—check with Wisconsin DNR
X Simple child swing sets
X Siting of HVAC equipment like A/C units
X Installation of egress window modules
X Livestock fencing
X Placement of LP tanks

This non-exhaustive handout was last updated March of 2018. Contact the Green Lake County Land Use Planning and Zoning office with questions and for updates.

Structures in Setbacks
Land Use Planning and Zoning Department
Green Lake County, WI
(920) 294-4156

What is allowed in the side setback with a land use permit?
✓ Walkways no wider than 36”
✓ Up to 12 inches of the overhang on a structure can be in the side setback
✓ Fences and retaining walls

SHORELAND SETBACKS
What is allowed in the 75ft Shoreland Setback with a land use permit?
✓ Boathouses which meet all criteria, see Boathouse Summary
✓ Stand-alone fire ring without patio
  • Maximum outer diameter of 72”
  • At least 35ft from the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM)
✓ Walkways, stairways, or rail systems that are necessary to provide pedestrian access to the shoreline, maximum of 60” wide
✓ Open-sided and screened structures at least 35ft from the OHWM, as long as no more than 200sqft of floor area will be in the entire 75ft setback, and a qualifying vegetative buffer zone plan recorded to the property deed — See 338-32 A. (1)(b)
✓ Broadcast signal receivers, utility structures, runoff treatment systems

What is NOT allowed in the 75ft Shoreland Setback?
X Patios of any design other than grass or natural vegetation
X Fire pits with paved or landscaped areas surrounding the fire ring
X Homes, garages, or any other structures unless otherwise exempt.
X Fences and retaining walls

This non-exhaustive handout was last updated March of 2018. Contact the Green Lake County Land Use Planning and Zoning office with questions and for updates.