



REDWOOD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE

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*Planning & Zoning • Parks & Trails • GIS
Aquatic Invasive Species • Septic Inspector
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SHORELAND REPORT

In the Shoreland District in 2020, Redwood County issued nine land use/zoning permits. These were for the following structures: 15'x18' vault toilet (at the county park –Variance #3-19v); 40'x80' shed with 40'x40' house (variance #1-20v); 12'x18' lean to addition to existing farm shop; 60'x120' machine shed; 30'x60' hoop barn for hay storage; 80'x80' farm shop; 60'x80' machine shed, 12'x16' deck on existing house (variance 5-20v); and 26'x18' deck on existing house. All structures met the 150' setback from the ordinary high water mark, unless a variance is indicated.

A certificate of compliance was required, and received, in connection with the 12'x16' deck. A valid certificate of compliance was already on file for the 12'x18' lean-to addition property. A new mound system was installed, inspected, and approved in connection with the machine shed/house combo and the 80'x80' farm shop properties. For the other projects, the new structure was located within the Shoreland District, but the septic systems were not, so a septic inspection was not required.

Other projects undertaken and issues dealt with in the Shoreland District included, but are not limited to, the following: meetings with property owners regarding shoreland rules; research, site visit, and variance hearing for the construction of the new house/shop combination structure, on an existing farm building site along the banks of Boiling Spring Creek; research, site visit, and variance hearing for the construction of the 80'x80' farm shop on an existing farm building site near an unnamed, modified (ditched) natural water way listed on the PWI map; research, site visits, and variance hearing in connection with the replacement of a non-compliant septic system in the Shoreland District, on a historic farm site on the banks of an unnamed tributary of the Cottonwood River; review and research regarding road and bridge projects; respond to citizen inquiries regarding Shoreland rules and buffer strips; correspondence with VSO regarding proposed Veterans Cemetery to be located partly in the Shoreland District; meet with landowners and process administrative property splits located at least partly within the Shoreland District, including for the proposed veterans cemetery.

Three variances were issued in the Shoreland District in 2020. One for a house/farm shop combo structure (Boiling Spring Creek), one for a deck addition to a house (Ramsey Creek), and one for a replacement septic system (unnamed tributary of the Cottonwood River).

Three SSTS were installed in the Shoreland District in 2020: 1) the new vault toilet at Plum Creek County Park; 2) New septic for the house/shop combo; and 3) new septic required in connection with the 80'x80' farm shop. A variance was received for the ordinary high water mark setback for the vault toilet – which was placed farther from the creek than the old vault toilet it was replacing. The other two SSTS projects met the 150 setback.

SSTS REPORT

Staff made site visits to determine soils, inspect SSTS tanks and absorption areas, and inspect alleged ordinance violations. Forty-one SSTS were installed in Redwood County in 2020. Each design was reviewed one or more times depending on how many corrections needed to be made. Each was inspected between one and three times, depending on the type of SSTS and the installation schedule. Nearly 450 staff hours were devoted to SSTS related activities in 2020. Time spent by staff on SSTS increased nearly 100 hours over 2019, because SSTS installation numbers were up by over 50%. This is most likely due to the dry weather, after several years of wet weather delayed many projects. Staff time was also spent working with the University of MN to organize and coordinate a septic and well homeowner workshop.

Additionally, inquiries from realtors, lawyers, bankers, and citizens regarding septic rules, regulations, and records were fielded and answered. The septic records kept since 1996 were maintained and held open to the public upon request.