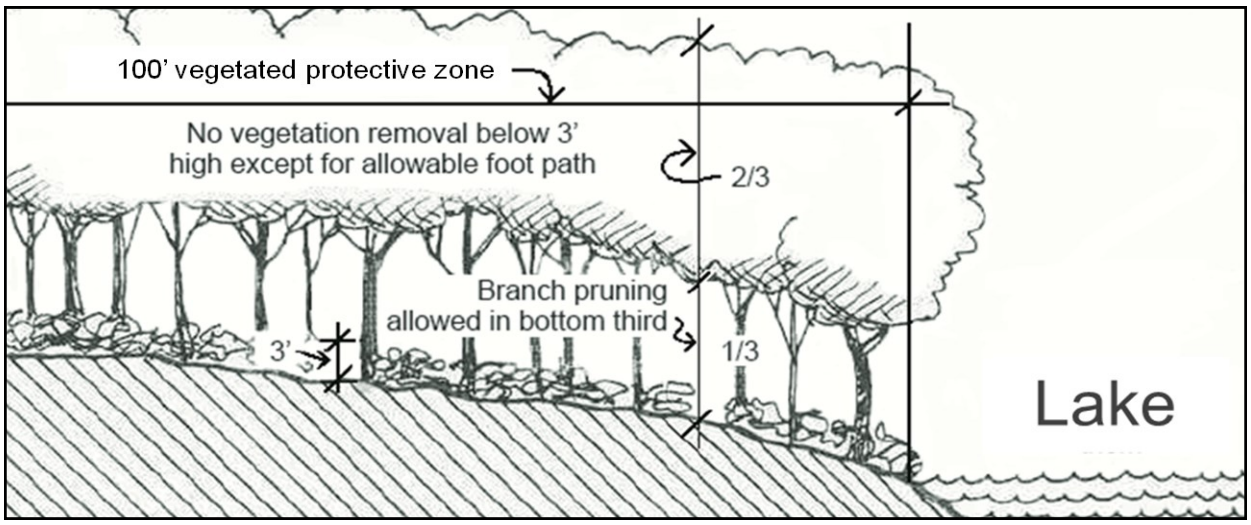
Vegetation Protection Standards

The area of the Lakeside Zone, the 100 foot wide strip of land that surrounds the lake, may be managed according to the Vegetation Protection Standards. Although the Vegetation Protection Standards may seem simpler to follow on wooded shores, they are equally important for existing developed or cleared lots, especially during a permitting process for expansions of impervious surfaces or cleared areas.

An already developed or cleared lot must maintain any areas of woodlands, even if they do not cover the whole 100 foot wide area. All existing natural vegetation within the Lakeside Zone for both undeveloped and existing developed lots is protected and a permit is needed to do any clearing or cutting of this vegetation, except for the following exemptions.

Activities in the Lakeside Zone that do not require a shoreland permit or registration:

- Removal of 250 square feet of vegetation under three feet in height, 25 feet from the mean water level, is allowed as long as the Vegetation Protection Standards are met and the duff layer is not removed.
- Pruning of branches on the lower one-third of a tree height is allowed.
- Establishing one six foot wide footpath down to the lake is allowed.
- Removal of dead, diseased, or unsafe trees is allowed.
- Management (cutting, pruning) of individual trees that are not part of the natural vegetation but are instead part of a garden or landscaped area as of July 1, 2014.
- Cutting of trees in accordance with the Vegetation Protection Standards.
- Removal of noxious and nuisance species.

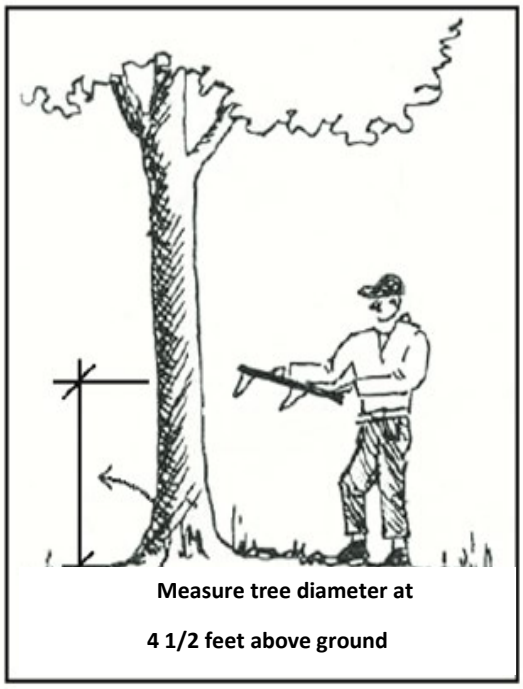


Allowable Practices within the Lakeside Zone

Applying the Vegetation Protection Standards

Materials:

- Flexible 25 foot tape measurer
- Flagging
- Stakes
- Paper and pencil



Measure tree diameter at

4 1/2 feet above ground

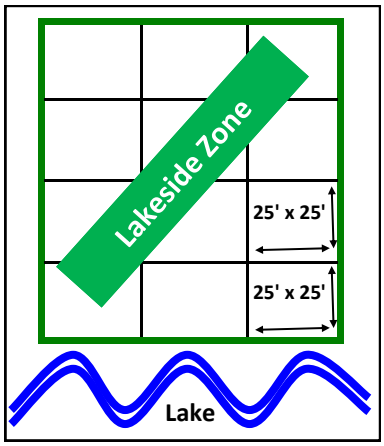
Step 1. Establish 25 Foot by 25 Foot Plots

Establish the first 25 foot by 25 foot plot, starting at the water's edge from the corner of the property that is on your left as you face the lake. As other plots are measured, they will be adjoining but not overlapping one another.

Vegetation Protection Standards are applied to each single 25 foot by 25 foot section of the Lakeside Zone, and should be maintained for each equivalent section in a lakeshore property.

Step 1. Establish 25' x 25' Plots

in the Woodland Zone



Step 2. Applying the Rating System to Tally Plot Points

The goal of the management of shoreland vegetation is to maintain the minimum number of trees and shrubs needed to protect the lake and to ensure saplings grow as replacement trees. The rating system assigns points to individual trees, based on the tree diameter at 4 1/2 feet, referred to as diameter at breast height (DBH). Within the Lakeside Zone, each 25 foot by 25 foot section is maintained by the landowner with:

- ***A minimum number of 12 total "points" worth of trees***
- ***At least five saplings (trees less than 2" DBH)***
- ***No cutting of vegetation under three feet tall***
- ***No removal of duff layer***

Using a flexible tape measurer, measure the circumference of the trees at breast height, standing on the uphill side of the tree. Measure each tree in each plot. Convert the number of inches to the DBH Rating System, using the table on the right. Count up the vegetation score for each plot to ensure that the Vegetation Protection Standards are met. Note: If the point system can not be met, because of site specific conditions, then assess the site for what would be naturally occurring on a functionally equivalent level to the point system.

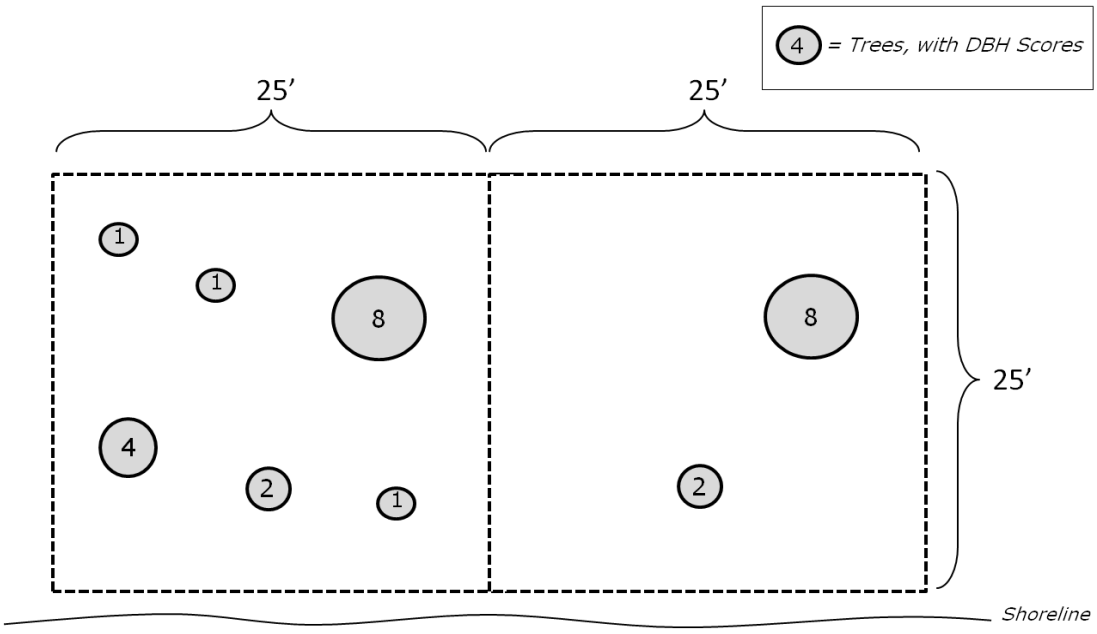
Step 2. Apply the Rating System

Circumference (inches)	DBH (inches)	Points
5" ≤ 12"	2" ≤ 4"	1
12" ≤ 23"	4" ≤ 8"	2
23" ≤ 38"	8" ≤ 12"	4
≥38"	≥12"	8

Step 3. Making Tree Removal Choices in Accordance with the Vegetation Protection Standards

All plots in the Lakeside Zone need to have a minimum of 12 points for the property to be in compliance with the Vegetation Protection Standards. However, each plot can be thinned down to but not less than 12 points. If a plot has 12 points or less, no trees may be removed.

The diagram below represents two adjacent 25 foot by 25 foot managed Lakeside Zone plots. The plot on the left meets the Vegetation Protection Standards with at least 12 points; the plot on the right does not. The left plot could have 5 points worth of trees removed and still meet the standards.



17 points in 25' x 25' area:

Meets vegetation management practices for DBH points

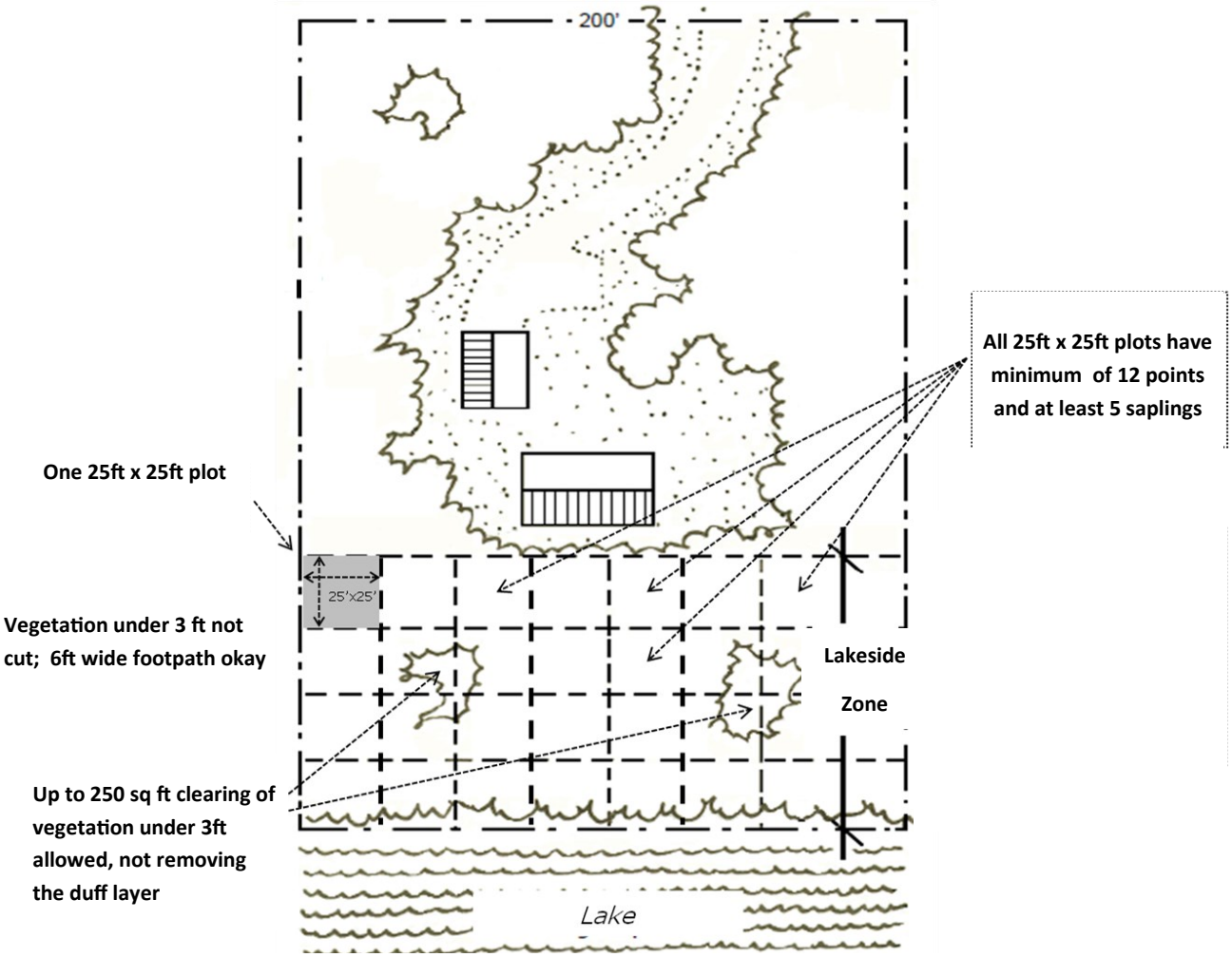
10 points in 25' x 25' area:

Does Not Meet vegetation management practices for DBH points

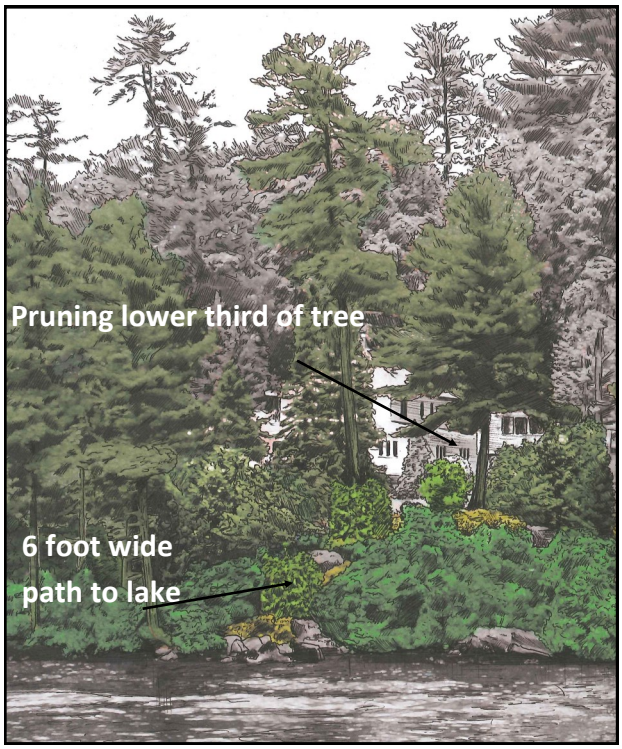
If a plot doesn't meet the Vegetation Protection Standards because there isn't enough vegetation, then you would have several options to ensure the standards are met which include:

- No Mow Zones
- Planting and Maintaining Vegetated Zones
- Live Staking

Whether making choices to thin vegetation under the Vegetation Protection Standards, or selecting species to re-vegetate, the lakeshore owner can favor certain native species over others. For example, some lakeshore owners might value blueberry bushes, while others may encourage balsams to grow. The Vegetation Protection Standards allow for these preferences and choices.



Vegetation Requirements for the Lakeside Zone



Example of Lakeside Zone Management