

VEGETATIVE ALTERATION APPLICATION

Stearns County Environmental Services Department

Stearns County Service Center • 3301 County Rd 138 • Waite Park, MN 56387
(320)656-3613 • (800)450-0852

Prior to establishing a view corridor on a riparian lot, the property owner shall contact the department to arrange for a site visit and complete an application for vegetative alteration

A. Applicant Information

Applicant name (last, first, MI)

Telephone

Applicant address

City/State/Zip

B. Project Location

Address of property affected

City/State/Zip

Parcel #

Lot, Block, Subdivision

¼ Section, Section-Twp-Range

C. Project Information

Waterbody name and number (if known)

Project Purpose:

Proposed start of activity date: _____

Proposed completion date: _____

AGREEMENT: I hereby certify that I am the owner of the above property or their duly authorized agent and that the information contained herein is correct. I agree to do the proposed work in accordance with the ordinances of Stearns County, Minnesota and also in accordance with any additional provisions or conditions which may be attached to the permit being applied for. Signature of this application authorizes Environmental Services Staff, Board of Adjustment and/or Planning Commission members, and County Board of Commissioners to enter upon the property to perform needed inspections and review. All have county-issued badges. Entry may be without prior notice.

Signature of Property
Owner or Agent:

Date:

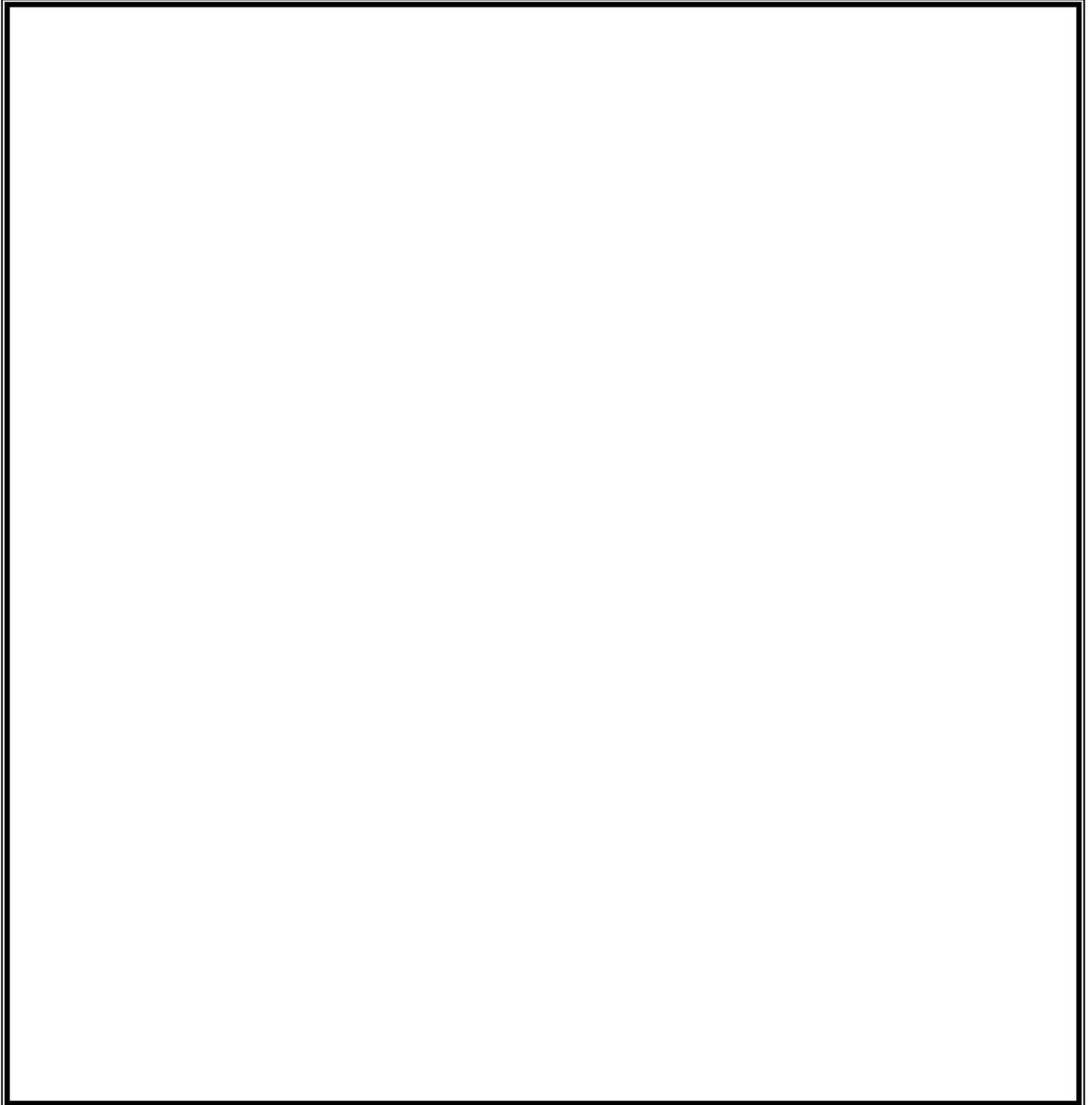
File #

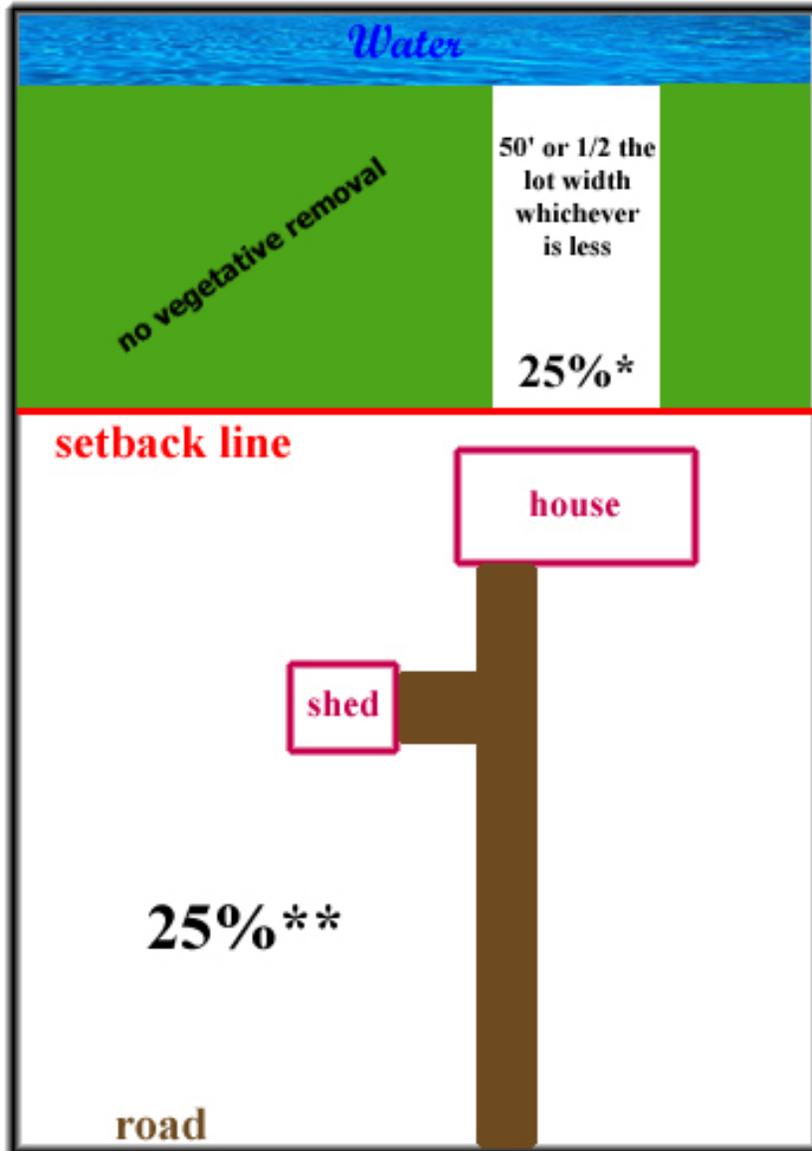
Parcel #: _____

Site Plan for Vegetative Alteration

Indicate in the space below the following:

1. **Indicate north.** Show the direction of north in relation to the site.
2. **Property boundaries.** Please indicate all property boundaries with length and width measurements.
3. **Building locations.** Please indicate all building locations on the property.
4. **Existing vegetation.** Indicate existing woods, tree lines, lawn, native vegetation areas and any other vegetative types.
5. **Proposed removal area.** Indicate shore impact zone, view corridor and **number of trees/shrubs to be removed.**





*The total cumulative tree/shrub removal within any view corridor shall not exceed 25% of the trees greater than 5" in diameter, 4.5 feet above ground (diameter breast height or DBH) and 25% of the trees/shrubs less than 5" DBH

**From the building setback and extending to the landward end of the lot, up to 25% of the trees greater than 5" DBH and up to 25% of the trees/shrubs less than 5" DBH may be removed in accordance with a plan submitted to and approved by the department.

10.2.13 Vegetative Alterations

- A. Vegetation alteration necessary for the construction of structures, sewage treatment systems and the construction of roads and parking areas regulated by *Section 10.2.16 of this Ordinance* are exempt from the vegetation alteration standards in *Section 10.2.13 of this Ordinance*, provided that a plan for the activities has been submitted to and approved by the Department.
- B. Except for agricultural and forest management uses as regulated in *Sections 10.2.19 and 10.2.20 of this Ordinance*, respectively, removal or alteration of vegetation may only be allowed, subject to the following standards:
 - (1) Intensive vegetation clearing within the shore and bluff impact zones and on steep slopes is not allowed, except as described in this Section. Intensive vegetation clearing for forest land conversion to another use outside of the shore and bluff impact zones and on steep slopes may be allowed as a conditional use if an erosion control and sedimentation plan is developed and approved by the Soil and Water Conservation District.
 - (2) Planned Unit, open space and conservation design developments are subject to the standards of *Sections 7.6 and 10.2.22 A.(2) of this Ordinance*.
 - (3) Vegetative alterations may be allowed on riparian lots, in shore or bluff impact zones or on steep slopes in accordance with the following standards:
 - (a) Prior to vegetative removal regulated by this Section or prior to establishing a view corridor on a riparian lot, the property owner shall contact the Department to arrange for a site visit and complete an application for vegetative alteration; and
 - (b) The Department may require that the property owner clearly mark any proposed view corridor and/or any vegetation to be removed from a riparian lot. Additionally, the Department may require the property owner to supply information on slope, soil type, property line locations, location of easements and any other information that may be needed in order for the Department to act on a request; and
 - (c) In considering a request for vegetative alterations, including the establishment of a view corridor, the Department may take into account the predevelopment vegetation, natural openings, surrounding vegetation patterns and density, previous vegetative alterations, slope, soil type, the locations and extent of adjacent view corridors, the adjacent body of water and other information it deems necessary and pertinent to the request; and
 - (d) The total cumulative view corridor shall not exceed fifty (50) feet or one-half (1/2) the lot width, whichever is less; and
 - (e) The view corridor shall extend from the most lakeward side of the principle residence and continue to the ordinary high water level of a public water body; and
 - (f) The total cumulative tree/shrub removal within any view corridor shall not exceed twenty five (25) percent of the trees greater than five (5) inches in diameter four and one-half (4.5) feet above the ground (diameter breast height or DBH) and twenty five (25) percent of the trees/shrubs less than five (5) inches DBH; and
 - (g) From the ordinary high water level, extending through the shore impact zone and extending to the building setback, exclusive of the view corridor, no vegetative alterations are allowed, however planting of trees, shrubs and other vegetation is encouraged; and
 - (h) From the building setback and extending to the landward end of the lot, up to twenty five (25) percent of the trees greater than five (5) inches DBH and up to twenty five (25) percent of the trees/shrubs less than five (5) inches DBH may be removed in accordance with a plan submitted to and approved by the department; and
 - (i) Except Boxelder and Chinese Elm, the removal of exotic species such as European Buckthorn or Purple Loosestrife or noxious species such as Poison Ivy or Prickly Ash is permitted; and
 - (j) The screening of structures, vehicles or other facilities as viewed from the water, assuming summer, leaf-on conditions, shall not be substantially reduced; and
 - (k) The existing shading of water surfaces along the shoreline shall be preserved during summer, leaf-on periods of the year.
- C. The removal of exotic species such as European Buckthorn or Purple Loosestrife or noxious species such as Poison Ivy or Prickly Ash shall no be considered to constitute an alteration of the vegetation.
- D. Naturally dead or diseased trees may be removed regardless of their location on the property.
- E. Application of fertilizer and pesticides in shoreland must be done in such a way as to minimize runoff into the shore impact zone or public water. The use of phosphorous containing fertilizer is prohibited within the shore impact zone.
- F. Burning of yard waste is prohibited within the shore and bluff impact zones or on steep slopes.
- G. Planting of trees, shrubs, establishing vegetated buffers and maintaining vegetated shorelines is encouraged on all riparian lots within Stearns County as a method to minimize and mitigate the impacts of stormwater runoff, erosion and nutrient enrichment on the County's water resources.