

Land Services Department

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CROW WING COUNTY

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Crow Wing County Restores Shoreline in 2009

The Annual Shoreland Report and Certification submitted to the Department of Natural Resources shows that the Crow Wing County Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment required over 4,000 linear feet of shoreline to be restored or protected through the public hearing process in 2009.

Land use applications such as variances and conditional use permits require a public notice and hearing before the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment to determine if the application should be approved or denied based on the facts presented. The Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment has the authority to place conditions on approved applications that will mitigate impacts to the environment.

Starting in 2009, the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment reviews all variances and conditional use permits on-site prior to the public hearing. Due to this change in procedure requiring on-site reviews, the decision makers are able to review the existing shoreline and make a determination regarding the best way to either restore or protect the shoreline. "The on-site visit process is an example of Crow Wing County's commitment to making sure that approved land use decisions do not harm the environment but rather protect our natural resources" stated Phil Trusty, Chairman of the Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners. "Shoreline buffers reduce stormwater runoff, sediment and nutrients and also provide for wildlife habitat. We need to encourage them on our lakes."

After the projects are completed, County staff will make a second on-site visit to verify that all conditions of approval for variances and conditional use permits have been met.

Since 2008, the County has been implementing Best Management Practices from the Minnesota Stormwater Manual for enhanced stormwater management for projects around lakes and streams. 386 projects used these Best Management Practices to manage stormwater in 2009. "Stormwater management is one of the most important things we can do to protect our lakes, streams and groundwater," stated Chris Pence, Land Services Supervisor for Environmental Services.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while protecting the extraordinary natural resources we all love and enjoy in Crow Wing County. Citizens are encouraged to contact the County at 218-824-1125 to discuss land use questions before starting projects.