

Livestock grazing associated with ongoing farm activities, and which are not in conformance with the above setback provisions may continue, provided that such grazing is conducted in accordance with a Conservation Plan that has been filed with the planning board.

NOTE: 7 M.R.S.A. section 155 requires a municipality to provide the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry with a copy of any proposed ordinance that impacts farm operations. The law further requires the Commissioner to review the proposed ordinance and advise the municipality if the proposed ordinance would restrict or prohibit the use of best management practices. A copy of a shoreland zoning ordinance that regulates no more restrictively than contained in these Guidelines need not be provided to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

NOTE RELATING TO TIMBER HARVESTING STANDARDS:

Title 38 M.R.S.A. section 438-A provides that, notwithstanding other provisions of the *Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act*, the regulation of timber harvesting and timber harvesting activities in shoreland areas must be in accordance with section 438-B and rules adopted by the Maine Forest Bureau pursuant to Title 12, section 8867-B. Section 438-B establishes three options from which each municipality may choose as the State implements a set of statewide timber harvesting standards in shoreland areas.

Option 1: The first option available to a municipality is the complete repeal of timber harvesting provisions from the shoreland zoning ordinance. Under this option the Bureau of Forestry will administer the regulation of all forestry activities within the municipality. Section 438-B(2) states:

A municipality may choose to have the statewide standards apply to timber harvesting and timber harvesting activities in that municipality by authorizing the repeal of all provisions within the municipal shoreland zoning ordinance that regulate timber harvesting and timber harvesting activities in shoreland areas and notifying the (Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry) of the repeal. The authorization must specify a repeal date. When a municipality accepts the statewide standards in accordance with this subsection, the (Director of the Bureau of Forestry) shall administer and enforce the statewide standards within that municipality beginning on (January 1, 2013) or the municipal repeal date specified in the notification received under this subsection.

Section 438-B(6) provides that, notwithstanding any provision in a local ordinance to the contrary, beginning January 1, 2013 rules adopted by the Bureau of Forestry under Title 12, section 8867-B will apply in all municipalities that have accepted the statewide standards in accordance with Option 1.

If a municipality chooses option 1, completely repealing the municipal regulation of timber harvesting activities in the shoreland zone and deferring the regulation of timber harvesting activities to the Bureau of Forestry, the repeal should include all references to timber harvesting regulations, including:

1. Section 14, Table 1, *Land Uses in the Shoreland Zone*, Item 3 (forest management activities except for timber harvesting & land management roads), Item 4 (timber harvesting), and Item 27 (land management roads) of the Table;
2. Section 15(O) in its entirety (Section 15(O-1) would not have been adopted by those municipalities that had elected to retain section 15(O), so there would be no need to repeal section 15(O-1)); and

3. All definitions in Section 17 pertaining to timber harvesting and forest management activities, including the terms: Cross-sectional area, DBH, Disruption of shoreline integrity, Forest management activities, Forest stand, Harvest area, Land management road, Licensed forester, Residual basal area, Residual stand, Skid road or skid trail, Slash, Timber harvesting and related activities, and Wind firm.

Option 2: The second option available to the municipality is the adoption of timber harvesting standards that are identical to the statewide standards. This option allows the municipality to retain some local control over the administration and enforcement of timber harvesting in the shoreland zone, while receiving assistance and expertise from staff of the Bureau of Forestry. Section 438-B(3) states:

A municipality may adopt an ordinance to regulate timber harvesting and timber harvesting activities that is identical to the statewide standards. A municipality that adopts an ordinance under this subsection may request the director (of the Bureau of Forestry) to administer and enforce the ordinance or to participate in joint administration and enforcement of the ordinance with the municipality beginning on the effective date of the statewide standards (January 1, 2013) or within 60 days of the director's receiving a request. When a municipality requests joint responsibilities, the director and the municipality shall enter into an agreement that delineates the administrative and enforcement duties of each. To continue to receive administrative and enforcement assistance from the (Bureau of Forestry) under this subsection, a municipality must amend its ordinance as necessary to maintain identical provisions with the statewide standards.

Section 438-B(6) provides that, notwithstanding any provision in a local ordinance to the contrary, beginning January 1, 2013 rules adopted by the Bureau of Forestry under Title 12, section 8867-B will apply in all municipalities that have adopted an ordinance identical to the statewide standards in accordance with Option 2.

For those municipalities that choose option 2, these Guidelines contain timber harvesting standards that are based on the June 15, 2005 Bureau of Forestry Chapter 21 statewide standards (Section 15.O-1). Provisions for culvert sizing in this section 15.O-1 have been updated to comply with current NRPA standards, and a reference to Bureau of Forestry definitions for terms used in this section has been added. However, before a municipality adopts or amends this section they should consult with the Bureau of Forestry to get the latest version of Chapter 21. A municipality amending their own forestry standards, whether under Option 2 or Option 3, is required to coordinate with the Bureau of Forestry through the Title 12, section 8869, subsection 8 process to ensure that any local amendments are consistent with the statewide standards in effect at the time of the local ordinance amendments.

Option 3: The third option available to the municipality is to retain its current timber harvesting standards. Section 438-B(4) states:

A municipal ordinance regulating timber harvesting and timber harvesting activities that is in effect and consistent with state laws and rules in effect on December 31, 2005 continues in effect unless action is taken in accordance with (Option 1 or Option 2 above). A municipality that retains an ordinance with provisions that differ from the statewide standards shall administer and enforce that ordinance unless the municipality requests that the director (of the Bureau of Forestry) administer and enforce the ordinance and the director agrees with the request after reviewing the ordinance. The director may not administer or enforce any ordinance that is more stringent than or significantly different from the requirements of section 438-B(3). A municipality may not amend a municipal

ordinance regulating timber harvesting and timber harvesting activities unless the process established in Title 12, section 8869, subsection 8 is followed. Beginning on (January 1, 2013), a municipality may not amend an ordinance regulating timber harvesting and timber harvesting activities in a manner that results in standards that are less stringent than or otherwise conflict with the statewide standards (Section 438-B(4)).

Option 3 municipalities may also amend their timber harvesting ordinances in accordance with section 15.O-1, but before a municipality amends their ordinance they should consult with the Bureau of Forestry to get the latest version of Chapter 21. A municipality amending their forestry standards, whether under Option 2 or Option 3, is required to coordinate with the Bureau of Forestry through the Title 12, section 8869, subsection 8 process to ensure that any local amendments are consistent with the statewide standards in effect at the time of the local ordinance amendments.

O-1. Timber Harvesting – Statewide Standards

- (1) **Shoreline integrity and sedimentation.** Persons conducting timber harvesting and related activities must take reasonable measures to avoid the disruption of shoreline integrity, the occurrence of sedimentation of water, and the disturbance of water body and tributary stream banks, water body and tributary stream channels, shorelines, and soil lying within water bodies, tributary streams and wetlands. If, despite such precautions, the disruption of shoreline integrity, sedimentation of water, or the disturbance of water body and tributary stream banks, water body and tributary stream channels, shorelines, and soil lying within water bodies, tributary streams and wetlands occurs, such conditions must be corrected.
- (2) **Slash treatment.** Timber harvesting and related activities shall be conducted such that slash or debris is not left below the normal high-water line of any water body or tributary stream, or the upland edge of a wetland. Section 15(O-1)(2) does not apply to minor, incidental amounts of slash that result from timber harvesting and related activities otherwise conducted in compliance with this section.
 - (a) Slash actively used to protect soil from disturbance by equipment or to stabilize exposed soil, may be left in place, provided that no part thereof extends more than 4 feet above the ground.
 - (b) Adjacent to great ponds, rivers and wetlands:
 - (i) No accumulation of slash shall be left within 50 feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line or upland edge of a wetland; and
 - (ii) Between 50 feet and 250 feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line or upland edge of a wetland, all slash larger than 3 inches in diameter must be disposed of in such a manner that no part thereof extends more than 4 feet above the ground.
- (3) Timber harvesting and related activities must leave adequate tree cover and shall be conducted so that a well-distributed stand of trees is retained. This requirement may be satisfied by following one of the following three options:

- (a) Option 1 (40% volume removal), as follows:
- (i) Harvesting of no more than 40 percent of the total volume on each acre of trees 4.5 inches DBH or greater in any 10 year period is allowed. Volume may be considered to be equivalent to basal area;
 - (ii) A well-distributed stand of trees which is windfirm, and other vegetation including existing ground cover, must be maintained; and,
 - (iii) Within 75 feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of rivers, streams, and great ponds, and within 75 feet, horizontal distance, of the upland edge of a freshwater or coastal wetlands, there must be no cleared openings. At distances greater than 75 feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a river or great pond or upland edge of a wetland, timber harvesting and related activities must not create single cleared openings greater than 14,000 square feet in the forest canopy. Where such openings exceed 10,000 square feet, they must be at least 100 feet, horizontal distance, apart. Such cleared openings will be included in the calculation of total volume removal. Volume may be considered equivalent to basal area.
- (b) Option 2 (60 square foot basal area retention), as follows:
- (i) The residual stand must contain an average basal area of at least 60 square feet per acre of woody vegetation greater than or equal to 1.0 inch DBH, of which 40 square feet per acre must be greater than or equal to 4.5 inches DBH;
 - (ii) A well-distributed stand of trees which is windfirm, and other vegetation including existing ground cover, must be maintained; and,
 - (iii) Within 75 feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of water bodies and within 75 feet, horizontal distance, of the upland edge of wetlands, there must be no cleared openings. At distances greater than 75 feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a river or great pond, or upland edge of a wetland, timber harvesting and related activities must not create single cleared openings greater than 14,000 square feet in the forest canopy. Where such openings exceed 10,000 square feet, they must be at least 100 feet, horizontal distance, apart. Such cleared openings will be included in the calculation of the average basal area. Volume may be considered equivalent to basal area.
- (c) Option 3 (Outcome based), which requires: An alternative method proposed in an application, signed by a Licensed Forester or certified wildlife professional, submitted by the landowner or designated agent to the State of Maine Department of Conservation's Bureau of Forestry (Bureau) for review and approval, which provides equal or better protection of the shoreland area than this rule.

Landowners must designate on the Forest Operations Notification form required by 12 M.R.S.A. chapter 805, subchapter 5 which option they choose to use. If landowners choose Option 1 or Option 2, compliance will be determined solely on the criteria for the option chosen. If landowners choose Option 3, timber harvesting and related activities may not begin until the Bureau has approved the alternative method.

The Bureau may verify that adequate tree cover and a well-distributed stand of trees is retained through a field procedure that uses sample plots that are located randomly or systematically to provide a fair representation of the harvest area.

- (4) **Skid trails, yards, and equipment operation.** This requirement applies to the construction, maintenance, and use of skid trails and yards in shoreland areas.
- (a) Equipment used in timber harvesting and related activities shall not use river, stream or tributary stream channels as travel routes except when surface waters are frozen and snow covered, and the activity will not result in any ground disturbance.
 - (b) Skid trails and yards must be designed and constructed to prevent sediment and concentrated water runoff from entering a water body, tributary stream, or wetland. Upon termination of their use, skid trails and yards must be stabilized.
 - (c) **Setbacks**
 - (i) Equipment must be operated to avoid the exposure of mineral soil within 25 feet, horizontal distance, of any water body, tributary stream, or wetland. On slopes of 10 percent or greater, the setback for equipment operation must be increased by 20 feet, horizontal distance, plus an additional 10 feet, horizontal distance, for each 5 percent increase in slope above 10 percent. Where slopes fall away from the resource, no increase in the 25-foot setback is required.
 - (ii) Where such setbacks are impracticable, appropriate techniques shall be used to avoid sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream or wetland. Such techniques may include the installation of sump holes or settling basins, and/or the effective use of additional ditch relief culverts and ditch water turnouts placed to avoid sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream, or wetland. If, despite such precautions, sedimentation or the disruption of shoreline integrity occurs, such conditions must be corrected.
- (5) **Land Management Roads.** Land management roads, including approaches to crossings of water bodies, tributary stream channels, and freshwater wetlands, ditches and other related structures, must be designed, constructed, and maintained to prevent sediment and concentrated water runoff from directly entering the water body, tributary stream or wetland. Surface water on or adjacent to water crossing approaches must be diverted through vegetative filter strips to avoid sedimentation of the watercourse or wetland. Because roadside ditches may not extend to the resource being crossed, vegetative filter strips must be established in accordance with the setback requirements in Section 15(O-1)(7) of this rule.
- (a) Land management roads and associated ditches, excavation, and fill must be set back at least:
 - (i) 100 feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of a great pond, river or freshwater or coastal wetland;
 - (ii) 50 feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of streams; and
 - (iii) 25 feet, horizontal distance, from the normal high-water line of tributary streams

- (b) The minimum 100 foot setback specified in Section 15(O-1)(5)(a)(i) above may be reduced to no less than 50 feet, horizontal distance, and the 50 foot setback specified in Section 15(O-1)(5)(a)(ii) above may be reduced to no less than 25 feet, horizontal distance, if, prior to construction, the landowner or the landowner's designated agent demonstrates to the Planning Board's satisfaction that no reasonable alternative exists and that appropriate techniques will be used to prevent sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream, or wetland. Such techniques may include, but are not limited to, the installation of settling basins, and/or the effective use of additional ditch relief culverts and turnouts placed to avoid sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream or wetland. If, despite such precautions, sedimentation or the disruption of shoreline integrity occurs, such conditions must be corrected.
- (c) On slopes of 10 percent or greater, the land management road setback must be increased by at least 20 feet, horizontal distance, plus an additional 10 feet, horizontal distance, for each 5 percent increase in slope above 10 percent.
- (d) New land management roads are not allowed within the shoreland area along Significant River Segments as identified in 38 M.R.S.A. section 437, nor in a Resource Protection District, unless, prior to construction, the landowner or the landowner's designated agent makes a clear demonstration to the Planning Board's satisfaction that no reasonable alternative route exists outside the shoreland zone, and that the new road must be set back as far as practicable from the normal high-water line and screened from the river by existing vegetation.
- (e) Ditches, culverts, bridges, dips, water turnouts and other water control installations associated with roads must be maintained on a regular basis to assure effective functioning. Drainage structures shall deliver a dispersed flow of water into an unscarified filter strip no less than the width indicated in the setback requirements in Section 15(O-1)(7). Where such a filter strip is impracticable, appropriate techniques shall be used to avoid sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream, or wetland. Such techniques may include the installation of sump holes or settling basins, and/or the effective use of additional ditch relief culverts and ditch water turnouts placed to avoid sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream, or wetland. If, despite such precautions, sedimentation or the disruption of shoreline integrity occurs, such conditions must be corrected.
- (f) **Road closeout and discontinuance.** Maintenance of the water control installations required in Section 15(O-1)(5)(e) must continue until use of the road is discontinued and the road is put to bed by effective installation of water bars or other adequate road drainage structures at appropriate intervals, constructed to avoid surface water flowing over or under the water bar, and extending a sufficient distance beyond the traveled way so that water does not reenter the road surface.
- (g) **Upgrading existing roads.** Extension or enlargement of presently existing roads must conform to the provisions of Section 15(O-1). Any nonconforming existing road may continue to exist and to be maintained, as long as the nonconforming conditions are not made more nonconforming.

- (h) **Exception.** Extension or enlargement of presently existing roads need not conform to the setback requirements of Section 15(O-1)(5)(a) if, prior to extension or enlargement, the landowner or the landowner's designated agent demonstrates to the Planning Board's satisfaction that no reasonable alternative exists and that appropriate techniques will be used to prevent sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream, or wetland. Such techniques may include, but are not limited to, the installation of settling basins, and/or the effective use of additional ditch relief culverts and turnouts placed to avoid sedimentation of the water body, tributary stream, or wetland. If, despite such precautions, sedimentation or the disruption of shoreline integrity occurs, such conditions must be corrected.
 - (i) **Additional measures.** In addition to the foregoing minimum requirements, persons undertaking construction and maintenance of roads and river, stream and tributary stream crossings must take reasonable measures to avoid sedimentation of surface waters.
- (6) **Crossings of waterbodies.** Crossings of rivers, streams, and tributary streams must allow for fish passage at all times of the year, must not impound water, and must allow for the maintenance of normal flows.
- (a) **Determination of flow.** Provided they are properly applied and used for the circumstances for which they are designed, methods including but not limited to the following are acceptable as a means of calculating the 10 year and 25 year frequency water flows and thereby determining water crossing sizes as required in Section 15(O-1): The United States Geological Survey (USGS) Methods; specifically: Hodgkins, G. 1999. Estimating the Magnitude of Peak Flows for Streams in Maine for Selected Recurrence Intervals. U.S. Geological Survey. Water Resources Investigations Report 99-4008. 45 pp.
 - (b) **Upgrading existing water crossings.** Extension or enlargement of presently existing water crossings must conform to the provisions of Section 15(O-1). Any nonconforming existing water crossing may continue to exist and be maintained, as long as the nonconforming conditions are not made more nonconforming; however, any maintenance or repair work done below the normal high-water line must conform to the provisions of Section 15(O-1).
 - (c) **Other Agency Permits.** Any timber harvesting and related activities involving the design, construction, and maintenance of crossings on waterbodies other than a river, stream or tributary stream may require a permit from the Land Use Regulation Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection, or the US Army Corps of Engineers.
 - (d) Any timber harvesting and related activities involving the design, construction, and maintenance of crossings of freshwater wetlands identified by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as essential wildlife habitat require prior consultation with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.
 - (e) **Notice to Bureau of Forestry.** Written notice of all water crossing construction maintenance, alteration and replacement activities in shoreland areas must be given to the Bureau prior to the commencement of such activities. Such notice must contain all information required by the Bureau, including:

- (i) a map showing the location of all proposed permanent crossings;
 - (ii) the GPS location of all proposed permanent crossings;
 - (iii) for any temporary or permanent crossing that requires a permit from state or federal agencies, a copy of the approved permit or permits; and
 - (iv) a statement signed by the responsible party that all temporary and permanent crossings will be constructed, maintained, and closed out in accordance with the requirements of this Section.
- (f) **Water crossing standards.** All crossings of rivers require a bridge or culvert sized according to the requirements of Section 15(O-1)(6)(g) below. Streams and tributary streams may be crossed using temporary structures that are not bridges or culverts provided:
- (i) concentrated water runoff does not enter the stream or tributary stream;
 - (ii) sedimentation of surface waters is reasonably avoided;
 - (iii) there is no substantial disturbance of the bank, or stream or tributary stream channel;
 - (iv) fish passage is not impeded; and,
 - (v) water flow is not unreasonably impeded.

Subject to Section 15(O-1)(6)(f)(i-v) above, skid trail crossings of streams and tributary streams when channels of such streams and tributary streams are frozen and snow-covered or are composed of a hard surface which will not be eroded or otherwise damaged are not required to use permanent or temporary structures.

- (g) **Bridge and Culvert Sizing.** For crossings of river, stream and tributary stream channels with a bridge or culvert, the following requirements apply:
- (i) Bridges and culverts must be installed and maintained to provide an opening sufficient in size and structure to accommodate 25 year frequency water flows or with a cross-sectional area at least equal to 3 times the cross-sectional area of the river, stream, or tributary stream channel.
 - (ii) Temporary bridge and culvert sizes may be smaller than provided in Section 15(O-1)(6)(g)(i) if techniques are effectively employed such that in the event of culvert or bridge failure, the natural course of water flow is maintained and sedimentation of the water body or tributary stream is avoided. Such crossing structures must be at least as wide as the channel and placed above the normal high-water line. Techniques may include, but are not limited to, the effective use of any, a combination of, or all of the following:
 - 1. use of temporary skidder bridges;

2. removing culverts prior to the onset of frozen ground conditions;
 3. using water bars in conjunction with culverts;
 4. using road dips in conjunction with culverts.
- (iii) Culverts utilized in river, stream and tributary stream crossings must:
1. be installed at or below river, stream or tributary stream bed elevation;
 2. be seated on firm ground;
 3. have soil compacted at least halfway up the side of the culvert;
 4. be covered by soil to a minimum depth of 1 foot or according to the culvert manufacturer's specifications, whichever is greater; and
 5. have a headwall at the inlet end which is adequately stabilized by riprap or other suitable means to reasonably avoid erosion of material around the culvert.
- (iv) River, stream and tributary stream crossings allowed under Section 15(O-1), but located in flood hazard areas (i.e. A zones) as identified on a community's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) or Flood Hazard Boundary Maps (FHBM), must be designed and constructed under the stricter standards contained in that community's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). For example, a water crossing may be required to pass a 100-year flood event.
- (v) **Exception.** Skid trail crossings of tributary streams within shoreland areas and wetlands adjacent to such streams may be undertaken in a manner not in conformity with the requirements of the foregoing subsections provided persons conducting such activities take reasonable measures to avoid the disruption of shoreline integrity, the occurrence of sedimentation of water, and the disturbance of stream banks, stream channels, shorelines, and soil lying within ponds and wetlands. If, despite such precautions, the disruption of shoreline integrity, sedimentation of water, or the disturbance of stream banks, stream channels, shorelines, and soil lying within ponds and wetlands occurs, such conditions must be corrected.
- (h) **Skid trail closeout.** Upon completion of timber harvesting and related activities, or upon the expiration of a Forest Operations Notification, whichever is earlier, the following requirements apply:
- (i) Bridges and culverts installed for river, stream and tributary stream crossings by skid trails must either be removed and areas of exposed soil stabilized, or upgraded to comply with the closeout standards for land management roads in Section 15(O-1)(6)(i) below.

- (ii) Water crossing structures that are not bridges or culverts must either be removed immediately following timber harvesting and related activities, or, if frozen into the river, stream or tributary stream bed or bank, as soon as practical after snowmelt.
- (iii) River, stream and tributary stream channels, banks and approaches to crossings of water bodies and tributary streams must be immediately stabilized on completion of harvest, or if the ground is frozen and/or snow-covered, as soon as practical after snowmelt. If, despite such precautions, sedimentation or the disruption of shoreline integrity occurs, such conditions must be corrected.
- (i) Land management road closeout. Maintenance of the water control features must continue until use of the road is discontinued and the road is put to bed by taking the following actions:
 - (i) Effective installation of water bars or other adequate road drainage structures at appropriate intervals, constructed to reasonably avoid surface water flowing over or under the water bar, and extending sufficient distance beyond the traveled way so that water does not reenter the road surface.
 - (ii) Water crossing structures must be appropriately sized or dismantled and removed in a manner that reasonably avoids sedimentation of the water body or tributary stream.
 - (iii) Any bridge or water crossing culvert in roads to be discontinued shall satisfy one of the following requirements:
 1. it shall be designed to provide an opening sufficient in size and structure to accommodate 25 year frequency water flows;
 2. it shall be designed to provide an opening with a cross-sectional area at least 3½ times the cross-sectional area of the river, stream or tributary stream channel; or
 3. it shall be dismantled and removed in a fashion to reasonably avoid sedimentation of the river, stream or tributary stream.

If, despite such precautions, sedimentation or the disruption of shoreline integrity occurs, such conditions must be corrected.

(7) Slope Table

Filter strips, skid trail setbacks, and land management road setbacks must be maintained as specified in Section 15(O-1), but in no case shall be less than shown in the following table.

Average slope of land between exposed Mineral soil and the shoreline (percent)	Width of strip between exposed mineral soil and shoreline (feet along surface of the ground)
0	25
10	45
20	65
30	85

40	105
50	125
60	145
70	165

- (8) **Definitions.** Unless otherwise provided herein, this Section O-1 incorporates by reference the definitions contained in the Maine Forest Service Rules Chapter 20, "Forest Regeneration and Clearcutting Standards", and Chapter 21, "Statewide Standards for Timber Harvesting and Related Activities in Shoreland Areas".

P. Clearing or Removal of Vegetation for Activities Other Than Timber Harvesting

- (1) In a Resource Protection District abutting a great pond, there shall be no cutting of vegetation within the strip of land extending 75 feet, horizontal distance, inland from the normal high-water line, except to remove hazard trees as described in section Q..

Elsewhere, in any Resource Protection District the cutting or removal of vegetation shall be limited to that which is necessary for uses expressly authorized in that district.

- (2) Except in areas as described in Section P(1), above, within a strip of land extending one-hundred (100) feet, horizontal distance, inland from the normal high-water line of a great pond classified GPA or a river flowing to a great pond classified GPA, or within a strip extending seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance, from any other water body, tributary stream, or the upland edge of a wetland, a buffer strip of vegetation shall be preserved as follows:
- (a) There shall be no cleared opening greater than 250 square feet in the forest canopy (or other existing woody vegetation if a forested canopy is not present) as measured from the outer limits of the tree or shrub crown. However, a single footpath not to exceed six (6) feet in width as measured between tree trunks and/or shrub stems is allowed for accessing the shoreline provided that a cleared line of sight to the water through the buffer strip is not created.
 - (b) Selective cutting of trees within the buffer strip is allowed provided that a well-distributed stand of trees and other natural vegetation is maintained. For the purposes of Section 15(P)(2)(b) a "well-distributed stand of trees" adjacent to a great pond classified GPA or a river or stream flowing to a great pond classified GPA, shall be defined as maintaining a rating score of 24 or more in each 25-foot by 50-foot rectangular (1250 square feet) area as determined by the following rating system.

Diameter of Tree at 4-1/2 feet Above Ground Level (inches)	Points
2 - < 4 in.	1
4 - < 8 in.	2
8 - < 12 in.	4
12 in. or greater	8