Town of Boothbay
Homeowner's Guide to Vegetation Removal in the Shoreland Zone

If you have any questions or need guidance contact:

Town of Boothbay
Code Enforcement
(207)633-2192

or

State of Maine
Shoreland Zoning
(207)287-3901

Clearing Vegetation (Other than for Commercial Timber Harvesting)
Clearing Vegetation In Buffer Areas

The shoreland zoning law prohibits any vegetation removal within the 75-foot buffer area around a great pond that is zoned for resource protection, except to remove safety hazards.

In all other shoreland areas, no more than 40% of the total volume of trees over 4 inches in diameter in the buffer area may be harvested in any 10-year period. Furthermore, vegetation less than 3 feet in height, including ground-cover, cannot be removed from shoreland buffers.

Pruning the lower third of the branches of a tree within the buffer is allowed.

Within 100 feet of great ponds and rivers flowing into great ponds, and within 75 feet of all other water bodies and streams:
- no opening in the forest canopy may exceed 250 square feet;
- a windbreak not more than 5 feet wide is allowed,
- selective cutting is allowed, provided a well-distributed stand of trees remains.

The standards establish a rating system which defines a "well-distributed stand of trees." Within the buffer zone, the property owner must maintain a minimum number of "points" worth of trees within any 25-foot by 50-foot area, and at least 5 saplings. Twenty-four points value must be maintained adjacent to great ponds and rivers flowing to great ponds, and 16 points must be maintained elsewhere. Points are assigned to trees, depending on their size. The following table shows how points are assigned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diameter</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 2&quot;</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&quot; to 4&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4&quot; to 6&quot;</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8&quot; to &lt;12&quot;</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12&quot; or greater</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ALL WORK IN THE SHORELAND ZONE REQUIRES A PERMIT!
Typical Buffer in a Residential Zone:

Limit clearing to 40% of volume (in a 30-year period) and no canopy openings over 250 sq. ft.

Great ponds and rivers flowing into them.

Clearing Beyond the Shoreland Buffer:

Beyond the 75 foot or 100 foot buffers mentioned above, clearing is also limited to no more than 40% of the volume of trees over 4 inches in diameter within a 10 year period. This means that the more land that is cleared for buildings, lawns, and driveways, the less can be thinned elsewhere. Further, cleared openings cannot exceed 25% of the total area within the shoreland zone, or 10,000 square feet, whichever is greater. (Note: this 25% provision does not apply to the General Development or Commercial Fisheries/Maritime Activities district.)

Maximum clearing 10,000 sq. ft. or 25% of the total area

60,000 sq. ft. less clearing limited to 10,000 sq. ft. or 25%

Excerpts from the Town of Boothbay Zoning Ordinance:

3.11 Buffer and Setback Requirements

3.11.3 Clearing or Removal of Vegetation for Activities other than Timber Harvesting (DBP § 15.7)

3.11.3.1 General All clearing of trees shall be in accordance with the Best Management Practices. Ground water runoff buffers as required in Section 3.11.3 shall be maintained.

3.11.3.2 Shoreland Overstory Zone and Watershed Overstory Zone

3.11.3.2.1 Except to allow for the development of permitted uses and the removal of safety hazards specifically identified and marked by a Maine licensed forester, a buffer strip of vegetation shall be preserved within a strip of land extending 100 feet from the shoreline of a great pond and 75 feet from any other shoreline, as follows: EHR § 439-A(6) and DBP §§ 15 O(3)(a)(6) & P(G).

3.11.3.2.1.1 There shall be no cleared or cleared openings greater than 250 square feet in the forest canopy (or other standing woody vegetation if a forest canopy is not present) as measured from the outer limits of the tree or shrub grove.

3.11.3.2.1.1 A footpath to not exceed 6 feet in width as measured between tree trunks or shrub stems is allowed provided that a cleared line of sight to the water through the buffer strip is not created.

3.11.3.2.2 Sedentary cutting of trees within the buffer strip is allowed provided that a well-distributed stand of trees and other natural vegetation is maintained.

3.11.3.2.2.1 A "well-distributed stand of trees" adjacent to a great pond or a stream flowing to a great pond shall be defined as maintaining a rating score of 24 or more in each 25 foot by 50 foot rectangular 1,250 square feet area, as determined by the following rating system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diameter of tree at 4½ feet above ground level (inches)</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 - &lt;4 inches</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 - &lt;8 inches</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 - &lt;12 inches</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 in. or greater</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>