

Q45. **2024 Annual Shoreland Activities Survey**

The DNR Shoreland Management Program would like to thank all county staff for their continuing dedication in administering their county’s shoreland regulations. Your continued efforts are critical to the protection of our state’s water resources. We would also like to thank staff for taking the time at the end of each year to fill out the annual Shoreland Activities Survey.

Directions:

Please answer the following questions for your county's 2024 shoreland activities. Following are tips for navigating the Qualtrics survey:

- You must answer all required questions before you can move to the next page.
- You can leave a partially completed survey and return to it later by copying the URL and re-posting it in a browser.
- No information is saved unless you click the **Right Arrow** button at the bottom. Even if you complete a page the information will not be saved until you advance to the next page.
- **Once you complete the last page, the survey is saved and the DNR will receive your responses. You will also have the option to download a pdf of your completed survey.**
- The DNR will send you a PDF copy of your survey when the survey is closed.
- To receive a shoreland grant in 2025, a completed survey must be received by **February 1, 2025**.
- If you have any questions, please contact:
Kathleen Metzker, DNR Land Use Hydrologist
500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4032
(651) 259-5694
kathleen.metzker@state.mn.us

Q1. Select Your County

Steele

▼

Q2. 2024 Shoreland Block Grant Amount (\$)

3914

Q3. List the number of shoreland variance approvals in 2024 (if zero, please enter '0' in the box):

OHWL setback:	1
Of these, how many were in the SIZ?	1
Bluff setback:	0
Of these, how many were in the BIZ?	0

Septic System Setback:

Impervious coverage:

Building Height:

Q9. Did your county approve any subdivisions (with or without variances) in shoreland areas in 2024 where the lots did not meet the lot area and width standards?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Q10. How many lots did not meet the minimum lot size and/or width standard?

Q11. Please explain why these decisions were made.

To correct a lot line that ran through the middle of a shed a 20' strip of land was transferred from one non-conforming lot to the adjacent non-conforming lot.

Q12. Did you typically require conditions of approval on variances approved in 2024?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Did not approve any variances in 2024

Q13. For approximately how many variance inquiries in 2024 were alternative solutions found (thus reducing the actual number of variance applications)?

☐ All

☐ Most

☒ About half

☐ Hardly any

☐ None

Q14. What approaches were most effective in helping owners pursue alternative solutions?

denial of past similar variance requests.

Q15. Does your county require septic system compliance (system upgrades) whenever a variance or permit of any kind is granted?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Q16. What were the total number of lots created in shoreland areas in each of the following categories in 2024?

Shoreland PUD:	0
Standard lot and block subdivision:	0
Lot splits (administrative subdivision):	0

Q20. In 2024, how many land use permits did your county issue for new construction on previously undeveloped lots in shoreland areas:

Q21. In 2024, how many land use permits did your county issue in shoreland areas for redevelopment (e.g., expansion of structures, substantial improvements, new structures added to developed lots):

Q22. How many permits for grading and filling within the SIZ, BIZ, and steep slopes were issued in 2024?

Q23. To what extent do you think grading and filling activities took place within the SIZ, BIZ, and steep slopes with a permit vs. done without a permit?

unknown

Q24. Does your county generally inspect work being done in shoreland?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Q25. If so, how does your county inspect the work? Check all that apply.

- ☒ on-site inspection prior to construction
- ☒ on-site inspection during construction
- ☒ on-site inspection after construction
- ☐ as-built drawings and measurements required after construction
- ☐ other

Q26. If other, please describe

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q33. Have any townships in your county taken on shoreland and/or floodplain zoning administration in 2024? If yes, please list the township(s) and describe any cooperative agreements between your county and those township(s):

none

Q46. Are you aware of any townships in your county which intend to take on shoreland and/or floodplain zoning administration in 2025? If yes, please list the township(s):

none

Q35. What shoreland-related trainings, guidance, or tools do your staff or Board of Adjustment need?

importance of setback and impervious surface in shoreland.

Q38. Did your county pursue or consider pursuing any efforts to reduce impacts from or adapt to changing climate conditions? Efforts could include education and outreach, zoning changes, partnerships, or other special initiatives, in 2024? If yes, please describe. If it was a zoning change, please cite the provision:

no

Q47. If you have any additional questions or comments on any shoreland-related issues, please enter them here:

none

Q44. **Riprap**

There is growing concern about the increasing loss of natural shorelines and the proliferation of riprap across the state. Answering the following questions will help us understand the county administrative perspective and tee up discussion at a future LGU forum or more formally with MACPZA, if there is interest.

Q50. Does your ordinance require a permit for riprap installation?

☐ yes

☒ no

Q51. What are your riprap permit requirements? (select all that apply):

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q52. What is the length limit?

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q53. If other, please explain:

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q54. Would any of the following prep work related to riprap installations require a permit? (select all that apply):

- ☒ Land alteration exceeding 10 cubic yards above the OHWL
- ☐ A crushed rock or gravel filter exceeding 10 cubic yards placed underneath riprap
- ☒ Vegetation removal
- ☐ We have no permits for riprap-related work
- ☐ Other

Q55. Please explain:

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q56. When someone asks about riprap projects at or below the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL), what information do you give them (select all that apply)?

- ☒ DNR contact information (i.e., Aquatic Plant Management specialist, Area Hydrologist, Wildlife contact, etc.).
- ☐ Tell them there are no local permits or requirements.
- ☐ Tell them about local permit requirements.
- ☐ Tell them that no DNR permit is required if there is a demonstrated need to stop existing erosion or to restore an eroded shoreline and they follow the conditions on the DNR Riprap factsheet.
- ☐ Give them the DNR riprap factsheet.
- ☐ Other.

Q57. If other, please explain:

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q58. Does the fact that the DNR allows riprap to be installed without a permit below the OHWL in certain situations affect your ability to protect shoreland resources? If so, please explain.

Riprap projects often include retaining walls etc. and once a landowner hears they do not need a permit they often take that to mean they are free to do whatever.

Q59. Overall, how often do you think riprap is installed when there isn't a significant erosion problem or for situations where vegetative solutions would work?

- ☒ Very often
- ☐ Often
- ☐ Not often

Q60. In what situations do you see unnecessary installation of riprap? Please explain with examples, if possible.

Terracing of banks to include more flat surfaces for recreating, storage, etc.

Q61. What are the biggest contributing factors to the unnecessary installation of riprap? **Select three.**

- ☐ Insufficient local requirements.
- ☒ Insufficient DNR requirements.
- ☐ Lack of staff administrative and/or enforcement capacity.
- ☐ Lack of DNR area hydrologist capacity to review projects below the OHWL.
- ☒ Lack of education on the importance of natural shorelines.
- ☐ Lack of resources to provide landowners and contractors for alternative solutions.
- ☒ Other.

Q62. If other, please explain

landowners think installing riprap and retaining walls as improvements to their property, adding to its appearance and value rather than having "weeds" .

Q63. What suggestions do you have for limiting the number of unnecessary riprap installations? **(select three)**

- ☒ Better define the level of existing shoreline erosion needed before riprap is allowed as an erosion control measure.

- ☒ Better define methods to demonstrate or prove that a specified level of existing erosion exists.
- ☐ Training for LGUs and contractors on what constitutes erosion and best practices for design and installation of riprap.
- ☒ Require permits for all riprap from the DNR.
- ☐ Require permits for all riprap from the local government.
- ☐ None-there are no concerns with current state and local riprap standards.
- ☐ Other

Q64. If other, please explain:

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q42. Contact person:

Dale Oolman

Q43. Contact person's title:

Planning And Zoning Director

Q44. Email address:

dale.oolman@steelecountymn.gov

Q45. Phone number:

5074447482

Location Data

Location: [\(44.0794, -93.2188\)](#)

Source: GeoIP Estimation

