

RPBCWD Shoreland Health Scoring Instructions

To be used in conjunction with the Shoreland Scorecard

Upland Zone (House to top of bank)

1. Estimate the percentage of the lake lot that contains **trees**.
2. Estimate the **shrub cover** (mid-canopy layer of shrubs and/or tree saplings).
3. Estimate the percentage of natural/unmowed **ground cover** (grasses, wildflowers, tree leaves, needles, and mosses).

Trees, shrubs, or ground cover in the Shoreline Zone does not count for the Upland Zone.

	Tree cover	Shrub cover	Natural ground cover
75-100%			
50-74%			
25-49%			
1-24%			
0%			

Image credit: MN DNR Score Your Shore Quick Guide

Shoreline Zone (Top of bank to waterline)

1. Estimate the percentage of the lake lot, within the Shoreland Zone, that contains combined **trees and shrubs** (mid-canopy layer of shrubs and/or tree saplings).
2. Estimate the percentage of natural/unmowed **ground cover** (grasses, wildflowers, tree leaves, needles, and mosses).
3. Record the presence of **overhanging trees and branches** that extend into the Aquatic Zone.

Trees, shrubs, or ground cover in the Upland Zone does not count for the Shoreline Zone.

	Tree & shrub cover	Natural ground cover	Overhanging branches
75-100%			1-100%
50-74%			
25-49%			
1-24%			
0%			

Image credit: MN DNR Score Your Shore Quick Guide

Aquatic Zone (Waterline to 50 feet out)

1. Record the presence of emergent, floating-leaf plants, and submergent vegetation. The lakeward extent of these **plant beds** will vary with water depth and other factors and therefore is not a feature that is scored in this assessment.
2. Record the presence of **downed woody habitat** in the Aquatic Zone adjacent to the developed lot. Surveyor may include trees, limbs and branches that are entirely in the water as well as woody habitat that is partially or entirely on the shoreline.
3. Record the type of dock, lifts, and marina at site.

	Coverage	Points
Human-made openings in plant beds	No openings	20
	Minimal openings (<25% removed)	10
	Yes	0
Downed woody habitat	Yes	10
	No	0

STRUCTURE				
Number of docks	Number of Rafts	Number of Lifts	Number of Marinas	Points
None	None or many	None	None	20
One simple	None or many	None	None	15
At least 1 simple or 1 complex	None or many	None to 2	None	10
	None or many	More than 2	None	5
None to many	None or many	None or many	One or more	0