

Great Lakes Shoreline Management Permit Requirements¹



Activity	Definition	Limitations	Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) permitting Requirements under PA 14 2003 valid until Nov. 1, 2007	DEQ Permitting Requirements Beginning Nov. 1, 2007	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Requirements ³
Leveling of Sand	Relocation of sand to other sand areas, including redistribution, grading, and spreading sand deposited on upland riparian property.	No alteration of natural lake contours, excavation of basins, leveling of sand in non-sand (i.e. organic or cobble) areas, relocation of natural shoreline or formation of new upland areas. Leveling is only authorized in areas naturally free of vegetation, or where vegetation has been removed in accordance with the NREPA ² .	No permit required	Requires authorization under the General Permit	Requires Regional Permit
Grooming of Sand	Use of equipment in the top four inches of sand to remove debris (includes muck/algae removal above the water's edge).	Grooming is only authorized in areas naturally free of vegetation or where vegetation has been removed in accordance with the NREPA ² . No destruction or disturbance of plants or plant roots.	No permit required	Requires authorization under the General Permit	Requires Nationwide Permit
Path Construction	Construction of a temporary pathway from upland directly to the water's edge.	For commercial or public access properties: Limited to one pathway, maximum 10 feet bottom width for every 200 feet of riparian property (<400 feet = 1 path, <600 feet = 2 paths, etc.). Only on-site sand and gravel may be used, no alteration of natural shoreline contours. For individual private properties: Limit one pathway per property, maximum 6 feet wide. Only on-site sand and gravel may be used, no alteration of natural shoreline contours.	No permit required	Requires authorization under the General Permit	Requires Nationwide Permit
Mowing vegetation to a height of not less than four inches	Creation of a pathway to the water's edge.	Limited to 10 feet in width.	No permit required	Requires authorization under the General Permit	No permit required
	Creation of an individual recreation area.	Area not to exceed 400 square feet.			
	Mowing in previously mowed areas on properties in Saginaw Bay and Grand Traverse Bay.	Previous mowing must have been conducted in accordance with the NREPA ² . Limited to width of riparian property or 100 feet, whichever is less.			
Mowing vegetation as part of an invasive species control plan	Mowing of areas predominantly vegetated by invasive or non-native species.	Must be part of a DEQ approved invasive species control plan.	Individual permit with a public notice required in most cases	Requires authorization under the General Permit	No permit required
Removal of Vegetation	Manual or mechanized removal of vegetation other than de minimus ⁴ hand removal.	Limitations will be specified by the DEQ during permit application review period.	Requires individual permit with a public notice ⁵	Requires individual permit with a public notice ⁵	Requires individual permit with a public notice ⁵

1. Activities described in this document take place above the water's edge and below the ordinary high water mark. These activities not authorized in areas regulated by Part 353, Sand Dunes Protection and Management; and Part 365, Endangered Species Protection. These activities are not authorized in areas regulated under Part 323, Shorelands Protection Act (Environmental Areas), except for invasive species control plans and mowing pathways.

2. Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994, PA 451, as amended

3. Visit http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/who/regulatory_office/ for information on USACE requirements

4. De minimus hand removal means insignificant or minute removal that is done without mechanized equipment. Group efforts to clear an area or hiring of workers to clear an area by hand is not considered de minimus.

5. Individual permit applications require additional fees and will receive a more detailed review by the DEQ, including a public notice period and a possible public hearing.