

**FACT SHEET
STAIRWAYS, LIFTS AND LANDINGS
CARLTON COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE #27**

CARLTON COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE #27 - Article 4, Section 5, Subd. H 9E:

Stairways and lifts are the preferred alternative to major topographic alterations for achieving access up and down bluffs and steep slopes to shore areas. Stairways and lifts must meet the following design requirements:

- ☞ Stairways and lifts must not exceed 4 feet in width on residential lots or 8 feet in width on commercial, public open space recreational, or planned unit development properties.
- ☞ Landings for stairways and lifts on residential lots must not exceed 32 square feet in area. Landings for stairways and lifts on commercial, public open space recreational, or planned unit development properties must not exceed 80 square feet in area.
- ☞ Canopies or roofs shall not be allowed on stairways, lifts or landings.
- ☞ Stairways, lifts, and landings may be either constructed above the ground on posts or pilings, or placed on the ground, provided they are designed and built in a manner that ensures control of soil erosion.
- ☞ Stairways, lifts and landings must be located in the most visually inconspicuous portions of the lots, as viewed from the surface of the public water assuming summer, leaf-on conditions, whenever practical.
- ☞ Handicapped accessibility: Facilities such as ramps, lifts, or mobility paths for physically handicapped persons are also allowed for achieving access to shore areas, provided that the dimensional and performance standards of this section of the ordinance are complied with in addition to the requirements of Minnesota Rules Chapter 1341.
- ☞ A zoning permit is required for stairways that provide access to shore areas (classified lakes, rivers and streams).



**FACT SHEET
ACCESSORY STRUCTURES
CARLTON COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE #27**

CARLTON COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE #27 - Article 4, Section 5, Subd. H 9E:

All accessory structures and facility must meet or exceed the structural setback requirements of the primary zoning district except as modified below and meet all of the following standards:

- ☞ The structure may have the lowest floor placed lower than required if constructed of flood-resistant materials to the OHWL and electrical and mechanical equipment is placed above the OHWL. If long-duration flooding is anticipated, the structure shall be built to withstand ice action and wind-driven waves and debris.
- ☞ The structure or facility must not be designed or used for human habitation and must not contain water supply or sewage treatment facilities.
- ☞ Each residential lot may have one water-oriented accessory structure or facility located closer to the OHWL of public waters than the required structure setback.
- ☞ The structure or facility may not exceed 10 feet in height, exclusive of safety rails, and cannot occupy an area more than 160 square feet.
- ☞ The structure must be located in the Access Corridor (see Vegetation Alterations and Removal fact sheet).
- ☞ On general development and recreational development lakes, water-oriented accessory structures used solely for watercraft storage and storage of related boating and water-oriented sporting equipment may occupy an area up to 400 square feet provided the maximum width of the structure is 20 feet as measured parallel to the shoreline.
- ☞ The structure setback from the OHWL shall be a minimum of 10 feet, except in the St. Louis River area designations, where the minimum setback shall be 30 feet from the OHWL.
- ☞ The structure or facility must be treated to reduce its visibility as viewed from public waters and adjacent shorelands by vegetation, topography, increased setbacks or color, assuming summer, leaf-on conditions.
- ☞ The height of the structure shall not be constructed 3 feet above the main floor level of any principal structure on the lot or adjoining lots within 200 feet of the proposed building site.
- ☞ A zoning permit is required for accessory structures.

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