

CARLTON COUNTY ZONING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Carlton County Zoning and Environmental Services** is the zoning authority for all areas of Carlton County except the following cities: Barnum, Carlton, Cloquet, Cromwell, Kettle River, Moose Lake, Wrenshall, Wright and one township, Thomson. Carlton County also has zoning authority in **shoreland areas** (property within 1,000 feet of a classified lake or 300 feet of a classified river or stream) in the City of Cromwell, City of Carlton and Thomson Township.
- Check with the Zoning and Environmental Services Office to find the **Zoning District**. The Zoning District will dictate the lot size requirements, setbacks and property use. See Carlton County Zoning Ordinance #27 - Table 1 Dimensional Standards and Table 2 Height, Setback and Lot Coverage Standards.
- **Zoning Permits** are required for building or moving any structure, no matter the size, including dwellings, additions, decks, privacy fences, garages, storage containers, outhouses, signs, recreational vehicles (under some circumstances) and sheds. Zoning Permits are not required for replacing doors, windows, re-siding or re-roofing (shingles).
- The **State Building Code** is not enforced by this office in the rural parts of Carlton County.
- The design, location, construction and abandonment of **wells** are regulated by the Minnesota Department of Health 218-302-6166.
- **Electrical work** is regulated by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry 651-284-5026 or 1-800-DIAL-DLI.
- If a **new driveway** is proposed off a township road, you must contact the specific township to obtain a driveway permit. If the driveway is coming off a county road, you must contact the Carlton County Transportation Department for a driveway permit. If the driveway is coming off a state road, you must contact the Minnesota Department of Transportation.
- A **Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Permit** is a separate application obtained from the Zoning and Environmental Services Office by you or a licensed designer. Septic systems are required to be designed by a designer with a current license from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
- If a structure has **pressurized water**, the structure must be connected to a compliant septic system.
- A current **Certificate of Compliance** for a septic system is required when applying for any permit or point of sale for structures located within 1,000 feet of a classified lake or 300 feet of a classified river or stream.
- A current Certificate of Compliance for a septic system is required before issuance of a Zoning Permit for adding bedrooms.
- The Carlton County Zoning and Environmental Services Office regulates activities in wetlands (**swamps and low areas**). There are many types of wetlands including shrub and wooded wetlands. Check with the Zoning and Environmental Services Offices for information, maps and permit requirements.
- The Carlton County Zoning and Environmental Services Office regulates activities in **shoreland areas** including excavating, filling, and vegetation removal. If your proposed project includes excavating, filling, or vegetation removal in a shoreland area, a Shoreland Alterations Zoning Permit or Interim Use Permit may be required.
- An E-911 number/address is required for all primary structures in Carlton County. Please obtain and complete an E-911 **New Property Address Assignment Application** if you currently do not have an E-911 number/address.
- If the proposed use is not listed as a permitted use in Carlton County Zoning Ordinance #27, a **Conditional/Interim Use Permit Application** may be required.
- If the proposed structure or lot does not meet the dimensional requirements or setbacks of the zoning district, a **Variance Application** may be required.