

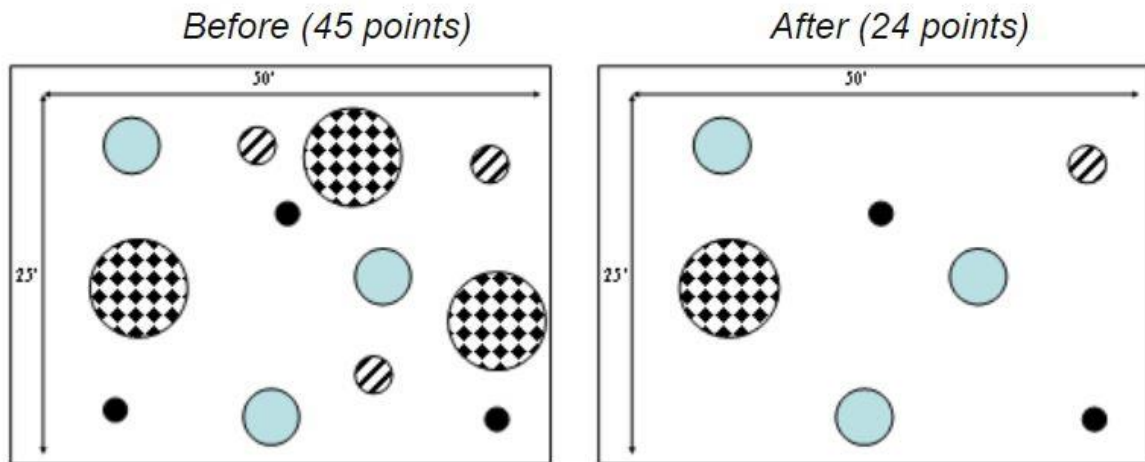
Shoreland Zone Cutting Standards (General- Different in some towns!)

Next to ponds, rivers and streams flowing to great ponds, a rating score of 24 or more points must be maintained. The point system was created to provide a more enforceable standard for tree cutting activities within the buffer strip.

As an example of the above rating system, adjacent to a great pond, if a 25-foot x 50-foot plot contains three (3) trees between 2 and 4 inches in diameter, three (3) trees between 4 and 8 inches in diameter, three (3) trees between 8 and 12 inches in diameter, and here (3) trees over 12 inches in diameter, the rating score is:

$$(3 \times 1) + (3 \times 2) + (3 \times 4) + (3 \times 8) = 45 \text{ points}$$

Thus, the 25-foot by 50-foot plot contains trees totaling 45 points. Trees totaling 21 points ($45 - 21 = 24$) may be removed from the plot provided that no cleared opening is created. The figure below is just one example of allowable cutting under the point system.



KEY		
Symbol	Tree Dia.	Points
●	2 - <4 inches	1
◐	4 - <8 inches	2
●	8 - <12 inches	4
◐	12 inches or greater	8

- Bridgton 12 points per 25ft*25ft plot
- Denmark 12 points per 25ft*25ft plot
- Harrison 12 points per 25ft*25ft plot
- Naples 24 per 25*50ft plot
- Sweden 12 per 25*25ft plot
- Waterford 24 per 25*50ft plot

Where conditions permit, no more than 50% of the points on any 25-foot by 50-foot rectangular area may consist of trees greater than 12 inches in diameter.

Is the cutting of vegetation less than 2 inches in diameter limited?

Yes. State law prohibits new cleared openings from being created within the buffer area. If removal of vegetation less than two inches in diameter will create cleared openings, enough vegetation must be retained to prevent the creation of such openings. Also, if five saplings less than 2 inches in diameter do not exist in a 25-foot by 50-foot plot, no woody stems less than two (2) inches in diameter can be removed until five saplings are recruited into the plot. Furthermore, in order to protect water quality, vegetation less than three (3) feet in height and other groundcover must be maintained within the buffer strip.

May I cut within the buffer strip for shoreline access?

Yes. As long as the area is not located in Resource Protection a footpath not to exceed six (6) feet in width as measured between tree trunks is permitted provided that a cleared line of sight to the water through the buffer strip is not created. In other words, the footpath must meander, rather than being a straight line to the water. The purpose of this limitation is to prevent runoff from funneling directly along the pathway to the water. By meandering the pathway, runoff is more likely to be trapped by vegetation and natural depressions within the buffer strip.

May I prune trees within the buffer strip?

Yes. Pruning of tree branches, on the bottom 1/3 of the tree is permitted. Dead branches are permitted to be pruned without restriction.

What if a cleared opening is created within the buffer area due to storm damage, disease, or the removal of an unsafe tree?

When the removal of storm-damaged, hazard, or dead trees results in the creation of a cleared opening, the opening must be replanted with native tree species, unless existing new tree growth is present.

Can existing cleared openings to the water be maintained?

Yes. Cleared openings legally in existence on the effective date of the ordinance may be maintained. However, areas that were once fields or cleared openings, but have reverted to primarily shrubs, trees, or other woody vegetation are regulated as any other buffer area under the ordinance.

Local ordinances may be more restrictive. You should always consult with your local code enforcement officer before you begin clearing vegetation in the shoreland zone.