



Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
John R. Griffin, Secretary
Eric Schwab, Deputy Secretary

Deep Creek Lake Natural Resource Management Area

Guidelines for Special Permit and Conservation Easement Alteration Applications

The following guidelines are provided to assist you in preparing applications that request alterations or improvements to the State owned Buffer Strip and/or your property owned by a deed of Conservation Easement (Buydown). Each application is evaluated for the specific project and site location and may be conditioned or restricted beyond what is outlined in this document.

General Conditions :

- Any alteration or improvement must:
 - Occur within the area of use of the Permit holder.
 - Allow for public access across the Buffer Strip.
 - Be non-permanent.
 - Be placed in a manner that preserves trees and vegetation.
 - Be installed and removed with minimum disruption to the land and vegetation.
 - Be located at least 20 feet upland from the high water mark and/or where the vegetation ends along the shoreline. Stairs to the dock may be an exception.
- Concrete is not permitted.
- High water mark (HWM) is at 2462 feet above sea level and is where the water meets the shoreline when the lake is at full pool.
- Permit holders are responsible for all costs of permits and improvements.

Structures – Decks, sheds, gazebos and similar structures:

- 120 square feet maximum permissible size or footprint (10 X 12 ft.)
- 12 ft. maximum permissible height
- Must be constructed of natural materials and be earth tone colors

Stairs, walkways and pathways:

- 4 ft. maximum in width
- Landscape tie borders acceptable with pathways of wood chips, gravel, or paving stones
- Steps must have a handrail on one side, a landing every tenth step, and a break in the railing may be needed to provide public access across the Buffer Strip
- Fences must have breaks to allow for public access across the Buffer Strip

Play areas, playground equipment and swings/hammocks:

- 400 sq. ft maximum permissible size or footprint (20 X 20 ft)
- Sand areas:
 - Permitted on slopes of 5% or less

- Filter cloth must be installed beneath sand
- Area must be enclosed with timbers and designed to prevent sand from moving out of area
- Swings and hammocks must have freestanding frame and may not be attached to trees with bolts or other hardware

Shoreline Erosion Control (SEC):

- Bioengineering or increasing the rooted vegetation along the shoreline is the preferred shoreline erosion control measure – e.g. Native plants, live stakes, fascines, brush mattresses, fiber coil logs, etc.
- Rip rap walls may be considered if there is evidence of significant active erosion.
- Hand stacked stone or interlocking walls are only considered under extreme erosion circumstances
- An additional application to the Maryland Department of Environment is necessary to gain approval for non-vegetative shoreline erosion control measures

Landscaping – Trees and vegetation:

- Only native plant species are approved for Buffer Strip plantings
- Pruning, clearing and removal of any vegetation:
 - Only permitted to provide access to approved dock facilities
 - Pruning or trimming vegetation to improve or provide a view of the lake is not allowed
 - Clearing for pathways: maximum width of 10 feet (5 feet either side of center line of path) and maximum height of 10 feet
 - Clearing for placement of structures: maximum area of disturbance is 120 square feet and only vegetation that is less than 3 feet in height is allowed to be removed
- Wetland areas and/or environmentally sensitive sites must be left intact and undisturbed

Lights and electric:

- Use of solar cells should be considered first
- Only a minimum number of lights will be approved
- Lighting must be shielded and the pool of light directed to the ground.
- Light posts:
 - No mortar or concrete may be used
 - One 12 foot tall post placed 20 feet from HWM for dock illumination may be permitted as a final (terminal) post
 - 4”x 4” is the maximum allowable post size
- Outside receptacles and circuits must be GFI protected
- DNR recommends conduit for underground installation and requires conduit for exposed wiring

Other improvements:

- Fire Rings:
 - Must be made of stone, steel or molded masonry
 - Must be 3 ft. or less in diameter (inside measurement)
 - Small fire wood stacks are for immediate use for the vacation season. They must be kept tidy, away from the shoreline and used from regularly. Long term storage of fire wood is not permitted on State land.
- Personal watercraft (PWC) stands may be permitted for vessels that have a total weight, including power source, of not more than 500 pounds.

Revised 11/14/07