

## **A. Purpose**

Lake Pocotopaug has experienced a gradual degradation of water quality since about 1970. The watershed area is intensely developed in many areas and is a primary source of storm water runoff that carries nutrients and pollutants that contribute to the eutrophication of the lake and degradation of its water quality. This Regulation recognizes the concerns raised by and is adopted in an effort to support and carry out the goals of the adopted "Lake Pocotopaug Nine Elements Watershed Based Plan".

This Regulation is intended to provide special protection to all land included in the watershed of Lake Pocotopaug and to minimize the negative environmental effects of development within the watershed area.

## **B. Goals**

The goals of this overlay zone are:

- A. To minimize the impervious surfaces and maximize infiltration of stormwater runoff;
- B. To reduce stormwater flow and minimize soil erosion, stream channel instability, flooding, and habitat destruction;
- C. To preserve and/or create vegetative buffers or native plantings to control and filter stormwater runoff;
- D. To minimize disturbance of natural grades and vegetation and utilize existing topography for natural drainage systems;
- E. To contain stormwater runoff on site and to reduce the volume of stormwater runoff before it reaches surface water bodies; and
- F. To prevent and minimize potential groundwater pollution from improper waste disposal, release of hazardous materials, and other sources.

## **C. Applicability and Scope**

The watershed is considered to be the area shown on the official Zoning Map as "Lake Pocotopaug Watershed." The provisions of these regulations shall be in addition to all other requirements of applicable statutes, codes, regulations, and ordinances. All development within the watershed shall be subject to this regulation and applications subject to action by the Planning and Zoning Commission shall be referred to the Conservation – Lake Pocotopaug Commission and are subject to a Public Hearing.

## **D. Requirements**

The following requirements shall apply to all properties within the watershed:

- A. The minimum building setback from Lake Pocotopaug and all tributaries (Hales, Christopher, Fawn, Clark, Days, O'Neil, Candlewood, Hazen, Bill Day, and Unnamed Brooks) shall be 50 feet regardless of underlying zone.
- B. All properties directly adjacent to Lake Pocotopaug and any of the aforementioned tributaries require a planted buffer zone of at least 20% of the distance between the primary residential structure and the water way, or five (5) feet, whichever is less starting at the mean high water

mark (existing buffers must be maintained.). Provisions may be made for walking paths (not wider than six feet) and dock landings. (Views may be maintained by planting low growth bushes and trimming large growth trees.) This buffer should contain native plantings consisting of low and high vegetation. Property owners should refer to the "Protecting Lake Pocotopaug" documents for best management practices.

- C. All projects resulting in more than 2,500 square feet of ground disturbance shall be referred to the Lake Consultant for a third party review. The applicant will be required to cover the cost of any such third party reviews.
- D. An Erosion and Sedimentation Control Bond in accordance with Section 8.5.N shall be submitted for all projects resulting in more than 2,500 square feet of soil disturbance.
- E. Seasonal Clearing Activity Limitations - The intent of seasonal clearing activity limitations is to limit the amount of exposed soils on site that are susceptible to erosion at any one time, thereby improving site stability during development and reducing potential for transport of dissolved pollutants and sediments off site. Preservation of existing trees on site also reduces the quantity and maintains the quality of stormwater leaving a site during and after development activities by encouraging interception, infiltration and evapotranspiration of rainfall and surface runoff.
  1. Administrative review and approval shall be required for all clearing.
  2. Clearing activity that will result in exposed soils exceeding 500 square feet shall not be permitted from October 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>; however, the Planning & Zoning Official may approve an exemption to this requirement for the following activities:
    - a. Routine maintenance and repair of erosion and sediment control measures;
    - b. Activities located at or waterward of the mean high water mark subject to conditions of approval requiring commencement of clearing activity between October 1<sup>st</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup> for purposes of minimizing surface water disturbance and site inundation by high water or wave action;
    - c. Activities necessary to address an emergency that presents an unanticipated and imminent threat to public health, safety or the environment that requires immediate action. Upon abatement of the emergency situation, the clearing activity shall be reviewed for consistency with this section and may be subject to additional permit requirements; provided, that the applicant shall make a reasonable attempt to contact the Planning & Zoning Official prior to the activity. When prior notice is not feasible, notification of the action shall be submitted to the Planning & Zoning Official as soon as the emergency is addressed and no later than two business days following such action. Emergency construction does not include development of new permanent protective structures where none previously existed;
    - d. The proposed activity does not involve the conversion of forest land and is outside critical areas and associated buffers.
    - e. To ensure compliance with subsection 2 above, the East Hampton Land Use Office shall not issue development approvals requiring more than 500 square feet of land disturbance located within the Lake Pocotopaug watershed within two weeks prior to the watershed seasonal closure on October 1st.

- f. Soil disturbance associated with an exempt clearing activity as defined above shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. The Planning & Zoning Official shall have the authority to condition an exempt activity to ensure that temporary erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented.
  - g. An exemption from the seasonal land clearing requirements of this section does not grant authorization for any work to be done in a manner that does not comply with other provisions of this chapter or other applicable development regulations.
- F. Within the Lake Pocotopaug Watershed Overlay District, all clearing activities must conform to the following conditions:
- A. Temporary erosion and sediment control shall be installed and inspected prior to any clearing activity. The Land Use Office Staff shall conduct periodic inspections to ensure the integrity of temporary erosion and sediment controls. Temporary erosion and sediment control measures include, but are not limited to, installation of silt fencing or filter socks, installation of check dams, covering of excavation piles, and mulching of exposed soils, as specified and in accordance with the 2002 CT E&S Guidelines.
  - B. Phased Clearing. Clearing activities shall be phased to limit the amount of exposed soil that occurs at any one time, based on site characteristics or constraints including, but not limited to, slopes, proximity to shorelines and wetlands. A phased clearing plan, shall be submitted for review and approval by the Planning & Zoning Official prior to any clearing activity and shall contain a detailed construction schedule or timeline. Failure to follow the phasing plan may result in fines in accordance with Section 9.4.
  - C. Soil Stabilization. All disturbed areas shall be provided with soil stabilization within two days of the time of disturbance. The phasing plan must specifically detail erosion and sediment controls.

#### **E. Application Requirements**

This section of the regulation specifically applies to any property where any one of the following activities is proposed:

- All new primary structure construction,
- Reconstruction (tear-down and rebuilds),
- Any property where a variance for setback or coverage is being sought,
- Any property where construction activity includes more than 750 square feet of disturbance.

In addition to the requirements listed in section 3.1.D above, applications for the above mentioned activities will not be considered complete and will not be acted upon unless and until the following items are submitted:

- A. A signed statement on a form provided by the Land Use Office verifying that the applicant is aware of his/her responsibilities for best management practices during and after construction and testifying that they are aware of the potential for the assessment of fines should best management practices not be adhered to.

- B. All applications as required by this Section shall include a Stormwater Management Plan and Data which shall include the following:
  - a. A Narrative report prepared by a licensed engineer indicating:
    - i. Any risk or threat to Lake Pocotopaug or its tributaries from site development, site improvements, or on-site operations proposed in the application..
    - ii. Methods of assessment and best management practices to prevent and reduce any such risk or threat.
    - iii. Supporting documentation, including calculations and engineering details shall be provided to illustrate the existing and proposed development's compliance with these regulations which shall be designed in accordance with the stormwater management design guidelines of either the "Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual" or Connecticut DEEP's "Manual for the Best Management Practices for Stormwater Management."
- D. A Site Plan indicating:
  - a. All relevant data required for the application,
  - b. Site topography,
  - c. Location and area of all impervious surfaces on the site,
  - d. Location and area of all turf cover,
  - e. Location and area of all existing woodland areas,
  - f. Location and area of all existing and proposed vegetative buffer areas,
  - g. Location and description of all potential runoff and pollution sources including erosive soils, steep slopes, and impervious surfaces,
  - h. Location and specifications of all existing and proposed stormwater best management practices.
  - i. Provisions for eliminating runoff from the property to the street. This must take into account the topography of the property and any nearby catch basins or other drainage structures.

## **F. Best Management Practices**

The following practices and methods shall be incorporated into all uses throughout the watershed wherever possible:

- A. Vegetative swales, buffers, filter strips
- B. Water control berms and level spreaders
- C. Grassed drainage swales wet, or dry
- D. Maintain or restore pre-development vegetation
- E. Minimize creation of steep slopes
- F. Bio-retention structures/residential rain gardens
- G. Rain water harvesting/rain barrels
- H. Dry retention ponds
- I. Underground detention galleries
- J. Proper location and reduction of impervious surface area on site
- K. Disconnect flows from multiple impervious surfaces

- L. Permeable pavement choices
- M. Groundwater infiltration systems (curtain drains, dry well galleries, etc)
- N. Site grading should be in such a manner so as to prevent any runoff from entering the lake, wetlands, or stream directly and instead directed to areas where it can infiltrate.
- O. Replanting

**G. Prohibited Uses**

The following uses are prohibited within the watershed zone because of the potential for negative impacts to Lake Pocotopaug.

- A. Direct discharge of stormwater into wetlands or waterways.
- B. Direct discharge of stormwater into existing catch basins and other drainage structures that drain to wetlands and watercourses.
- C. Underground fuel tanks
- D. Fuel filling stations
- E. Stockpiling or composting of manure within 200 feet of a wetland or watercourse.

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