



Village of Chenequa

June 2026 Newsletter

Summer is here!

Reminder for Everyone

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With all the construction going on during warmer months, it's important to remember that the Village does have an ordinance (5.25) on PERMISSIBLE TIME FOR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.

Memorial Day through Labor Day

Monday through Friday: 7 am to 6 pm | Saturday: 9 am to 3 pm

After Labor Day and Before Memorial Day

Monday through Friday: 7 am to 6 pm | Saturday 9 am to 6 pm

Sunday and Federal or State Holidays: No such work is permitted.

For more information on building codes: [Building Code](#)

Fireworks in the Village of Chenequa Require a User's Permit

Planning a fireworks display in the Village of Chenequa? A Fireworks User's Permit is required and may be obtained from the Village Clerk during normal business hours. Permit applications must be submitted **at least fourteen (14) business days prior to the event date** to allow sufficient time for processing and review.

The following items must be submitted with your application:

- Completed Fireworks User's Permit Application
- Permit Fee of **\$100**
- GIS Site Map of the display location
- Description of the **type and quantity of fireworks**
- Information of the fireworks operator
- Certificate of Insurance

For questions regarding the permit process, please contact the Village Clerk's Office during regular business hours.

Do You have a Poor Line of Sight?

If you are experiencing difficulty seeing oncoming traffic while pulling onto Chenequa's main travel corridors due to excessive shrub or tree growth, we can help.

Our Highway/Forestry Department is happy to remove shrubbery and tree growth as needed to improve visibility and reduce blind spots. Please contact Cody Lincoln by email at clincoln@chenequa.org or by phone at (262) 367-2145.



Welcome to the Chenequa Family!

Hi! I am Officer Alyssa Fox. I've been in law enforcement for 5.5 years and I currently work full-time for the City of Muskego Police Department. While at the Muskego PD I have served as a School Resource Officer and are currently serving as a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE).

When I am not at work, I value spending time with my family and traveling. I have two dogs who are my pride and joy. I will be working for Chenequa on a part-time basis, and I look forward to getting to know the residents of the Village.

Free Fishing Weekend!

June 6th-7th, 2026, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is again providing access to fishing on our public waters without the need of a license. This free fishing weekend is a great excuse to enjoy time outside and explore Wisconsin's wild places.

Check the [Wisconsin DNR events calendar](#) to find these and additional events held on public land/water. If you do "get hooked" on fishing after trying it out, it's only \$5 for a new Wisconsin anglers to buy a [2026 license](#).

Riparian Buffers

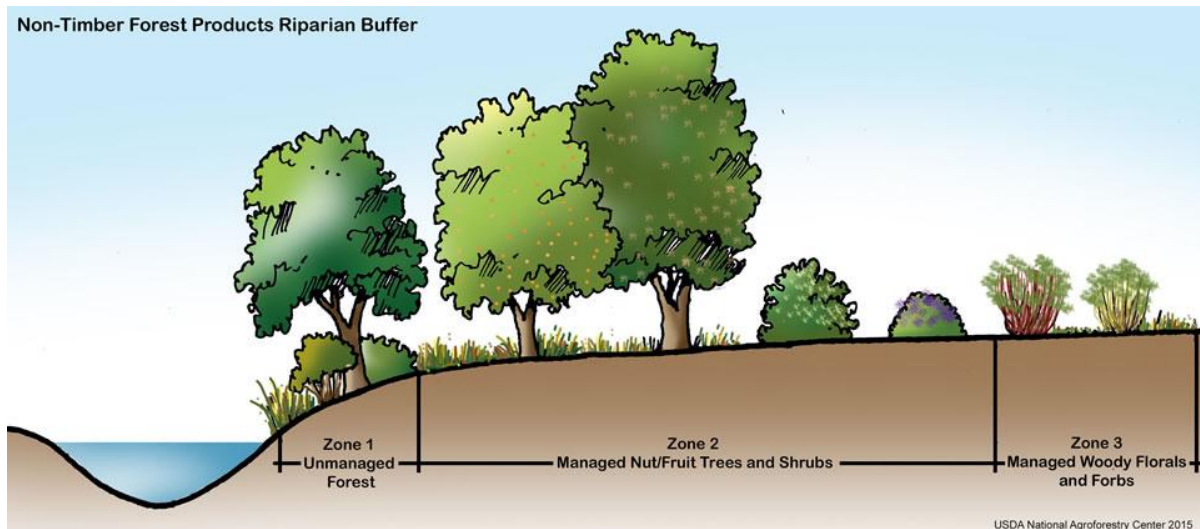
In this month's newsletter, the Highway/Forestry Department wanted to highlight a natural landscape feature that is common on the shorelines of all of Chenequa's lakes: **riparian buffers**. We hope this newsletter can be a helpful source of information for all lake property owners. For those that already have a natural shoreline buffer - what should you do to maintain your buffer and optimize the benefits that it provides for your property and the lake? For those who do not have a natural shoreline buffer – what are the benefits of installing one on your property? We'll do our best to answer these questions in this article.

What is a riparian buffer?

A riparian buffer is a strip of natural, fully vegetated landscape growing alongside a body of water. It is comprised of a mixture of primarily native plants (trees, shrubs, forbs, wildflowers, and grasses) which are deep rooted and tolerant of wet sites and occasional flooding.

Riparian buffers are beneficial surrounding all types of water bodies, including ponds, streams, rivers, and lakes. A natural buffer as small as 15' wide, when measured from the water and moving inland, can begin to provide benefits to both the land and the water. Those benefits increase dramatically as buffers extend beyond 35' inland, which is why the Village of Chenequa requires permits for any tree or shrubbery cutting within 75' of any lake. In recent years, there has been an increase in education and awareness from many organizations (both public and private) regarding how to preserve and restore these ecologically significant areas.

Example of a natural shoreline buffer – USDA National Agroforestry Center, 2015



For those who do not have a natural shoreline buffer on their property:

Here are some benefits that you could expect to see as a result of installing a natural vegetated buffer along your stretch of the shoreline:

1. Reduction in runoff and erosion – Native plants tend to have deeper and more vigorous root systems than ornamentals, invasives, or turf grass. This makes them especially well suited for holding soil together (especially on slopes), capturing rainwater runoff, and filtering excess nutrients before they enter the lake. These attributes provide significant benefits for maintaining and improving water quality.
2. Improved wildlife habitat – Riparian buffers offer some of the most important habitat for our native wildlife. Birds, mammals, and amphibians can find food, water, and shelter all within the natural areas along our lakes and streams.
3. Goose deterrent – It may sound contradictory that vegetative buffers are both great wildlife habitat and a goose deterrent at the same time, but it is true. Geese tend to prefer open areas where they can see predators coming from a long distance away, such as open fields or areas where short grass extends down near the water. A natural buffer has plants that are taller than geese, which obstructs their view of predators, causing them to look elsewhere for a place to reside.
4. Lower maintenance needs – The initial commitment to installing a riparian buffer can be rather intensive, but once it has become established, natural buffers often require far less maintenance than other landscape alternatives. While turf grass requires regular mowing and watering, and more formal landscapes may require irrigation, mulch, and frequent weeding – a natural buffer requires little to no watering, weeding, or mowing under normal conditions.
5. Aesthetic character – While everyone may have different preferences on landscape aesthetics, a shoreline buffer adds a layer of character to the aesthetics of a property. Riparian buffers do an excellent job tying-in the natural beauty of the Lake Country area with the more formal landscapes often surrounding lake homes. Many highly regarded landscape architects will use natural shoreline buffers as a prominent feature when designing landscapes for lake properties.

For those who already have natural riparian buffers:

Here are some helpful tips regarding how you can optimize the health of your buffer:

1. Stay on top of invasive species control – While the presence of a healthy, fully vegetated shoreline buffer is an excellent deterrent to invasive species, continue to monitor your site for isolated invasive plants sprouting up and have them removed before they spread. Invasive plant control is significantly easier and more effective if it is regularly maintained to prevent a growing infestation.
2. Supplemental planting in the understory – A large portion of the erosion control benefits associated with a riparian buffer are directly correlated to how well-vegetated the

understory is. A fully-stocked understory prevents areas of bare soil, and the network of plant roots do an excellent job of holding soil in place and increasing water absorption capacity. Consider planting native, shade-tolerant plants in forested areas where the understory may not be fully developed.

3. Supplemental planting of trees to increase canopy coverage – If you have a robust vegetated buffer of low growing plants but lack significant tree canopy, it can be very beneficial to add some large-stature tree species within your buffer area. Tree canopy is vital to shoreline buffers since it provides shade to cool the water, helps protect understory plants from drying out during drought conditions, and tree leaves overhead slow the velocity of rainwater as it falls which helps to reduce erosion.
4. Look for ways to improve plant species diversity – As you consider plant species for your shoreline buffer areas, look for ways to plant a large diversity of species on your property in order to create a more resilient landscape that will be less susceptible to the devastating effects of plant pests and diseases. As a general rule of thumb, the WI DNR says to aim for no particular *species* of plant to exceed 5% of your total plant population, and no particular *genus* of plant to exceed 10% of your total plant population when choosing plantings. This guideline is helpful to any planting you wish to do on your property, whether or not it is inside the shoreline buffer zone.

As always, if you have any further questions regarding riparian buffers or would like to discuss specific recommendations for your property, please do not hesitate to contact the Highway/Forestry Department and we would be happy to help.