

Example welcome letter #1

Dear Shoreland Owner;

Greetings! You are the proud owner of property along _____ Lake, one of Wisconsin's many jewels - its lakes and rivers. Along with the many benefits of living on the water's edge also come distinct responsibilities. We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to become a steward of your shoreland property. Areas near water are special places of tremendous importance to natural scenic beauty, biological diversity and water quality protection.

As you may know, Wisconsin's lakes and streams are being developed at an ever-increasing pace. Some forms of shoreland development can be harmful to the very things that attract us there in the first place— clean water, healthy wildlife, good fishing, and natural scenic beauty.

To help you protect your valuable shoreland, we offer free information that you can use to manage your property in a way that will preserve valued waterfront features, and enhance the economic value of your property. The Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association developed a great new web site with enhanced presentation and functionality at <https://vclra.org/new-owner/>. It is on line and capable of accepting applications for free memberships in VCLRA and Wisconsin Lakes.

We also recommend the book, *Life on the Edge...Owning Waterfront Property*. This excellent reference contains most of the answers to many questions you may have about everything from: how to landscape around a new home to protect water quality and wildlife, to putting in a well and septic system, to figuring out which regulations apply to activities on and near the waterfront.

Please take a few minutes to look through this information. We hope you refer to it often. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Example welcome letter #2

Welcome to _____ lake!

Congratulations on your recent purchase of shoreland property!

We bet that peace and quiet, clean water, and beautiful scenery are among the reasons you invested in property on a Wisconsin Lake. We invite you to learn more about the vital shorelands: special places of tremendous importance to water quality protection, natural beauty, and habitats for fish and other wildlife.

The materials in this packet provide helpful information about lake-friendly waterfront living. They include practical approaches for enjoying your property while keeping lake health, wildlife habitat, and your friends and neighbors in mind. We hope that you find these materials useful as you make decisions about how you will develop and care for your property.

Local information

- Shoreland development guide: a user-friendly summary of county shoreland zoning rules and best management practices.
- Contacts for your waterfront property questions: a list of who to call for permits, technical assistance, and others who can help address questions you may have.

Publications

- The Water's Edge: Helping fish and wildlife on your waterfront property
- Protecting Your Waterfront Investment: 10 Simple Shoreland Stewardship Practices
- Protecting and Restoring Shorelands
- Owning Waterfront Property— A Checklist
- Rethinking Yard Care

Books

- "Life on the Edge...Owning Waterfront Property" by Michael D. Dresen and Robert M. Korth
- "Saving our Lakes & Streams" by James A. Brakken
- "Lakeshore Living" by Paul J. Radomski and Kristof Van Assche
- "A Lakeside Companion" by Ted Rulseh