

## COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

### Article IX – Overlay Districts

#### Section 9.20 Decorah Edge Overlay District

##### 9.21 Intent and Application

Intent: The intent of the Decorah Edge Overlay Zone (DEOZ) regulations is to guide development in the vicinity of the Decorah Edge in order to protect discharge, interflow, and infiltration and recharge processes taking place in the vicinity of the Decorah Edge; to protect water quality and quantity recharging the aquifers relied on for potable water supply; to prevent extraordinary public expenditure for remediation of damage to public infrastructure; and to protect the environmental quality of Decorah Edge wetlands and related natural habitats; all of which promote the public health, safety and general welfare.

The regulations of this district are superimposed upon other existing zoning districts, superseding the regulations of those other districts only to the extent that developments must meet the additional standards of this chapter as well as those of the underlying district in order to comply with this ordinance.

Application: The Decorah Edge Overlay Zone applies to unplatted lands zoned to accommodate commercial or industrial development or residential development at a density greater than four lots per quarter quarter section within the Decorah Edge as defined and mapped in accordance with the Olmsted County Wetland Conservation Ordinance. The Decorah Edge Overlay Zone does not apply to the development of residential or agricultural uses on existing lots of record in existence at the time of enactment of these provisions.

##### 9.22 Definitions Related to This Chapter

1. Decorah Edge For the purposes of this ordinance the Decorah Edge is the area so identified in the Olmsted County Wetland Conservation Ordinance, as updated.
2. Edge Support Area The term "Edge Support Area" shall include any area so identified in the Olmsted County Wetland Conservation Ordinance.
3. Hydric Soil A hydric soil is a soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part (USDA NRCS "Hydric Soils – Introduction," available at <http://soils.usda.gov/use/hydric/intro.html>, accessed September 26, 2005). Hydric soils that occur in areas having hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology are wetland soils.

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| 4. Wetland                             | An area that is inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances supports a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. |
| 5. Groundwater supported slope wetland | A wetland that is saturated predominantly by ground water, including wetlands in the vicinity of springs or seeps. Such wetlands may be associated with highly organic peat-like soils such as Haverhill (474B) and Palms (528B) soils.  |
| 6. Managed Open Space                  | An area identified by easement or other mechanism that guarantees that the area will not be intentionally disturbed and that provides, at a minimum, for access by a public agency or a qualified land trust for purposes of monitoring the condition of and maintaining the site.   |

### 9.23 Development Standard

Within the DEOZ, development shall be carried out in such a way as to minimize the loss of wetlands and Edge Support Areas, maintain the potential for attenuation of groundwater pollutants including nitrate, maintain or enhance the quantity and quality of infiltration into the St.Peter, Prairie du Chien and Jordan aquifers, and protect groundwater discharge, interflow, and recharge characteristics.

### 9.24 Metes and Bounds Subdivisions

Except within the A-1, A-2, and A-3 Districts, creation of a lot by metes and bounds shall require a site plan showing that the buildable area, sewage treatment facilities, and runoff from impervious surfaces will not affect wetlands and Edge Support Areas as defined in the Olmsted County Wetland Conservation Ordinance, unless approved under the Wetland Conservation Ordinance.

### 9.25 General Development Plan

Except as provided below, all commercial and industrial development and all platted residential development in the DEOZ shall take place in accordance with an approved general development plan meeting the development standard of Section 9.23. The following are exempt from this requirement:

1. lots included in a plat recorded as of the effective date of this ordinance amendment;
2. lots included in a preliminary plat approved within two years prior to the effective date of this ordinance; or
3. lots included in a preliminary plat approved within two years after the effective date of this ordinance that are located in a general development

- plan that was approved prior to the effective date of this ordinance.
4. If within a general development plan for future platted residential development that was approved prior to the effective date of this ordinance and that does not meet the requirements of this Section, there remains an area that has not received approval of a preliminary plat within two years of the effective date of this ordinance, the general development plan for the remaining area must be revised to meet these requirements prior to or concurrent with consideration of a preliminary plat. Cambridge Hills, Boulder Ridge, Mayo Woodlands, and Hunter Point General Development Plans are exempt from the requirements of Section 9.23.

#### 9.26 R-1/DE Development

Within the R-1/DE District, a conservation design development which provides for an overall gross density of up to one dwelling per 3.5 acres; a gross density for the area covered by buildable lots, sewage treatment and stormwater runoff control facilities, and roads of up to one lot per 1.5 acres; and a minimum single family home lot size of 30,000 square feet may be accommodated in parcels or combinations of parcels any part of which are located in the DEOZ. Such conservation design development is the preferred style of development for development in the DEOZ. A general development plan for such development shall meet the following standards in addition to standards applying in the underlying R-1 Zone:

1. Avoidance of the Decorah Edge by roads, drains, pipelines, tiles, the building footprints of structures, other impervious surfaces, and sewage treatment systems to the maximum extent feasible, except where insufficient land area outside the Decorah Edge is included in the general development plan to accommodate the allowed density.
2. Complete avoidance of disturbance to groundwater supported slope wetlands and Edge Support Areas, except where provided for under the exemption and no-loss determination provisions or through the appeal process of the Olmsted County Wetland Conservation Ordinance.
3. Inclusion of wetlands in managed open space, to the maximum extent feasible, but in no case less than 75% of wetland areas. Wetland areas included as managed open space may provide for management through a conservation easement provided to the County prior to platting or through other mechanisms providing a similar level of protection and management oversight.
4. Provision for vegetative management of wetlands and Edge Support Areas, which shall include at a minimum, protection of such areas from disturbance, and which, at the discretion of the platting authority, may provide for posting or fencing of such areas, sustainable timber harvesting, restoration of native plant communities, or other vegetation management activities consistent with minimal disturbance and long term maintenance of natural vegetation. Vegetative management activities shall be documented in a vegetation management plan subject to the approval of the platting authority. The

intent of this section is to maintain or augment nutrient uptake by deep-rooted vegetation.

5. Provision for storm water management and discharge/interflow/recharge management plans that provide for protection of offsite properties from damage related to drainage and for maintaining pre-development discharge, interflow, and recharge characteristics.
6. Financial arrangements, deed restrictions, or other arrangements sufficient to provide for installation of sewage pretreatment, management of vegetation, and management and maintenance of multi-party sewage treatment and storm water management facilities in perpetuity.
7. Density Bonus: Density of development up to an overall gross density of one dwelling per 2.5 acres and a minimum single family home lot size of 14,000 square feet may be accommodated provided
  - A. roads, treatment facilities, drains, pipelines, tiles, the building footprints of structures, and driveways and other impervious surfaces avoid the Decorah Edge area to the maximum extent feasible; and
  - B. all wetland areas and Edge Support Areas are maintained in managed open space; and
  - C. other areas of the original site in native vegetation, and other areas of the site on slopes over 18%, are maintained in managed open space to the maximum extent feasible, but in no case less than 50% of such areas; and
  - D. pretreatment or other nitrate reduction sewage treatment systems are installed resulting in a nitrate impact on groundwater equivalent to an overall 3.5-acre density of development.

#### 9.27 R-A/DE Development

Within the R-A/DE District, a development which provides for a density of up to an overall gross density of one dwelling per five acres; a gross density for the area covered by buildable lots, sewage treatment and stormwater runoff control facilities, and roads of 2.5 acres per lot; and a minimum single family home lot size of 80,000 square feet may be accommodated in parcels any part of which are located in the DEOZ. A general development plan for such development shall meet the following standards in addition to standards applying in the underlying RA District:

1. Avoidance of the Decorah Edge by roads, drains, pipelines, tiles, the building footprints of structures, other impervious surfaces, and sewage treatment systems to the maximum extent feasible, except where insufficient land area outside the Decorah Edge is included in the general development plan to accommodate the allowed density.

2. Complete avoidance of disturbance to wetlands and Edge Support Areas, except where provided for under the exemption and no-loss determination provisions or through the appeal process of the Olmsted County Wetland Conservation Ordinance.
3. Inclusion in managed open space of wetlands, to the maximum extent feasible, but in no case less than 75% of wetland areas. Wetland areas included as managed open space may provide for management through a conservation easement provided to the County prior to platting or through other mechanisms providing a similar level of protection and management oversight.
4. Provision for vegetative management of wetlands and Edge Support Areas, which shall include at a minimum, protection of such areas from disturbance, and which, at the discretion of the platting authority, may provide for posting or fencing of such areas, sustainable timber harvesting, restoration of native plant communities, or other vegetation management activities consistent with minimal disturbance and long term maintenance of natural vegetation. Vegetative management activities shall be documented in a vegetation management plan subject to the approval of the platting authority. The intent of this section is to maintain or augment nutrient uptake by deep-rooted vegetation.
5. Provision for stormwater management and discharge / interflow / recharge management plans that provide for protection of offsite properties from damage related to storm water runoff and that provide for maintaining pre-development discharge, interflow, and recharge characteristics.
6. Financial arrangements, deed restrictions, or other arrangements sufficient to provide for installation of sewage pretreatment, management of vegetation, and management and maintenance of multi-party sewage treatment and storm water management facilities in perpetuity.
7. Pasture management plans that guarantee sustainable pasture management and which protect wetlands and woodlands in the Decorah Edge portions of the site from grazing and from runoff from grazed areas.

#### 9.28 Conventional Development

If it is determined at the time of wetland delineation that portions of the areas mapped as Decorah Edge do not include wetlands or Edge Support Areas, a general development plan may proceed under conventional zoning and subdivision approaches for such portions of parcels. The area of parcels developed conventionally shall not be considered in the density calculations permitted under Sections 9.25 or 9.26 related to the development of other parcels included in the general development plan that contain wetlands or Edge Support Areas. For the purposes of this section, a portion of a parcel may be considered for conventional development when all of the following circumstances are met:

1. a reasonable use remains for any residual portions of the original parcel;  
and
2. all portions of the original parcel are included in the GDP; and
3. the portion of the parcel to be developed conventionally is contiguous;  
and
4. the portion of the parcel to be developed conventionally is at least 15  
acres in area.

The determination that a reasonable use remains for residual portions of the original parcel shall reflect such attributes of the residual portions as contiguity, compactness, topography, developable area, and natural constraints on development for areas intended for development. Conservation easements or other means of preserving natural resource or open space uses of residual parcels may be considered to provide for reasonable use.