

Reserve Lands Management Policy DEV-93 States:

A) Background

- 3) Reserve lands are not intended for private use by adjacent landowners. The County is responsible for ensuring that reserve lands remain safe and available for public enjoyment. The County will not provide maintenance and upkeep of reserve lands unless a significant public safety hazard is present.

B) MUNICIPAL RESERVES (MR)

- 1) The management of MR lands is intended to provide a suitable land base for the provision of recreation facilities for the use and enjoyment of County residents and the general public.
- 2) Municipal reserves may provide important access links to other lands, including water access, and can also offer undeveloped green spaces that act as buffers between different land uses.
- 3) The County of St. Paul may allow public recreation facilities on MR lands where there is sufficient interest and demand, as determined by the County. Typical facilities to be considered for municipal reserves include but are not limited to sports fields, picnic sites, swimming beaches, community fire pits, skating rinks, trails, pathways and associated facilities such as parking lots, toilets, or washrooms.
- 4) The County may require subdivision developers to provide recreational facilities in new subdivisions.
- 5) The County encourages local communities to work with the municipality to develop recreational facilities. The County may work with local residents, groups, or community associations to address ongoing maintenance requirements such as litter picking, sign and fence repairs, and weed control.
- 6) Public trails may be developed on MR lands, at the discretion of the County. Support from local residents will be considered as part of the County's decision. Local residents will be considered residents of the relevant subdivision or surrounding area as determined by the County.
- 7) Motorized vehicles will not be permitted on reserve lands unless the County approves a parking lot within the MR lands.
- 8) Commercial facilities and services will not be permitted on reserve lands.
- 9) In MR locations that are in their natural state without developed recreation facilities, the removal of vegetation will generally not be permitted. However, vegetation removal may be considered where there is a public safety hazard or for agricultural purposes as determined by the County. Mowing will only occur to control weeds and reduce fire hazards. Removal of vegetation and mowing will be undertaken by the County unless otherwise authorized. Placement of fill material and other yard wastes (grass clippings, tree prunings, etc.) or the removal of any material will not be allowed.
- 10) Winter storage of boat docks and boat lifts may be permitted on MR lands at locations approved by the County.

- 11) MR lands will not be leased under any circumstances.
- 12) The County is not required to provide recreational facilities on MR lands. Residents interested in creating pathways, stairs, or other facilities may do so by obtaining a permit as per Section 3.3 of the County Land Use Bylaw.

Section 3.3 of Land Use Bylaw 2013-50

3.3 DEVELOPMENT ON RESERVE LANDS

- (1) Permanent development may be allowed to exist on Environmental and other Reserve Lands adjacent to lakes and other waterbodies only if it serves the interests of the general public.
- (2) Development permits may be issued on Environmental and other Reserve Lands for:
 - a. the winter storage of docks or boat hoists, or to accommodate similar seasonal storage requirements;
 - b. developments such as landings, walkways, stairs, retaining walls or similar private structures if, in the opinion of the Development Authority, the development does not pose a hazard to public safety, impede year round public access, or unduly interfere with the use and enjoyment of neighbouring properties; and
 - c. signs to provide direction, or area information. This does not include signage for advertising for adjacent businesses or commercial developments.
- (3) The approval of all development permits on Environmental and other Reserve Lands shall be subject to the following conditions, in addition to any others that the Development Authority may deem reasonable or necessary:
 - a. the applicant shall indemnify the County from liability for the development; and
 - b. the permit may be revoked at any time if, in the sole opinion of the Development Authority, the development poses a hazard to public safety, impedes public access, or interferes with the use and enjoyment of neighbouring properties.