

CHAPTER 104
CANDLEWOOD LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
(CLWD)

Section 104-010 Background

Candlewood Lake, the State's largest lake and one of its most important water resources, has experienced a gradual deterioration of water quality since about 1950. Studies of the lake shoreline development area have recommended planning to avoid the need to install a public sewer system.

New Milford is one of five Connecticut towns that border the lakeshore. The lake's watershed area is 26,461 acres and New Milford's portion is 2,629 acres or 10% of the total. Major segments of the watershed and lake shore area are intensively developed and a primary source of stormwater runoff that can carry nutrients and pollutants that contribute to the eutrophication of the lake and deterioration of lake and ground water quality.

These regulations are designed to minimize, and where possible, reduce the negative impact of stormwater runoff affecting Candlewood Lake and watershed area thereby reducing the rate of lake eutrophication and avoiding the need for a public sewer system.

Section 104-020 Purpose

The purpose of the Candlewood Lake Watershed District is to prevent nutrient enrichment or contamination of Candlewood Lake and its watershed and to avoid the need for sewers in the Candlewood Lake area of New Milford:

1. To minimize the impervious surfaces and maximize infiltration of stormwater runoff.
2. To reduce peak stormwater flow and minimize the likelihood of soil erosion, stream channel instability and flooding and habitat destruction.
3. To preserve and/or create vegetative buffers of native plantings to control and filter stormwater run-off.
4. To minimize disturbance of natural grades and vegetation and utilize existing topography for natural drainage systems.
5. To contain stormwater runoff on the site, wherever possible to reduce the volume of stormwater runoff and to cleanse the runoff before it reaches the groundwater or surface water bodies.
6. To prevent and minimize potential groundwater pollution from improper waste disposal, release of hazardous materials and other sources.

Section 104-030 Land to Which These Regulations Apply

These regulations apply to all land within the boundaries of the Candlewood Lake watershed as delineated on a map on file in the offices of the Zoning Commission entitled “Candlewood Watershed District, Town of New Milford”.

Section 104-040 Compliance

Within town boundaries, the Candlewood Watershed District shall be superimposed on existing zoning districts. The provisions of these regulations shall be in addition to all other requirements of applicable statutes, codes, regulations or ordinances. In the event of conflict between the provisions of this regulation and any other Town regulation, the more restrictive requirement shall apply.

Section 104-050 Permitted Uses

1. All uses permitted in the underlying district.

Section 104-060 Required Stormwater Management Plan and Data

All new building construction, or any addition, alteration or enlargement that results in an increase in the amount of impervious surface (paved drives, walks, patios, etc.) on a lot where the total impervious surface is 20% or greater shall require a Stormwater Management Plan in accordance with the following requirements:

- A. A narrative report prepared by a licensed engineer indicating:
 1. Any risk or threat to Candlewood Lake or the water resources in its watershed from site development, site improvements, or on-site operations proposed in the application and measures.
 2. Methods of assessment and best management practices to prevent and reduce any such risk or threat.
 3. 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” published by the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service, NEMO Project and/or the Connecticut DEP’s “Manual for the Best Management Practices for Stormwater Management”.
- B. A site plan indicating:

1. All relevant data required under section 185-010 “Application for Use Permit”.
2. Location and area of all impervious surfaces on the site.
3. Location and area of turf cover (lawn areas).
4. Location and area of all existing woodland areas.
5. Location and area of all existing and proposed vegetative buffer areas.
6. Location and description of all potential runoff and pollution sources including erosive soils and steep slopes.
7. Location and specifications of all existing and proposed stormwater best management practices.

Section 104-070 Best Management Practices

The following practices and methods shall be incorporated into all stormwater management plans wherever possible:

1. Vegetative swales, buffers, filter strips
2. Vegetative buffer or filter strips and level spreaders
3. Grassed drainage swales, wet or dry
4. Maintain or restore pre-development vegetation
5. Minimize creation of steep slopes
6. Bio-retention structures/residential rain gardens
7. Rain water harvesting/rain barrels
8. Dry detention ponds
9. Underground detention ponds
10. Proper location and reduction of impervious surface area on site
11. Disconnect flows from multiple impervious surfaces
12. Permeable pavement choices
13. Groundwater infiltration systems (curtain drains, dry well galleries, etc.)

Section 104-080 Approval Considerations

1. Prior to the issuance of Zoning approval or a Certificate of Zoning Compliance, the Commission, acting through its authorized agent, the Zoning Enforcement Officer, shall give consideration to the simplicity, reliability and feasibility of the individual Stormwater Management Plan prepared for the site and shall approve or disapprove the Plan accordingly.
2. The Commission, or its agent, may solicit the opinion of the Health Department, Town Engineer, Inland Wetlands Commission and the Planning Commission

concerning any application involving the Candlewood Lake Watershed District.

3. Approval shall not be granted until the Zoning Enforcement Officer determines that the proposed plan will employ best management practices to substantially reduce and improve the on-site cleansing of stormwater runoff from the site.

(Effective: November 24, 2003)