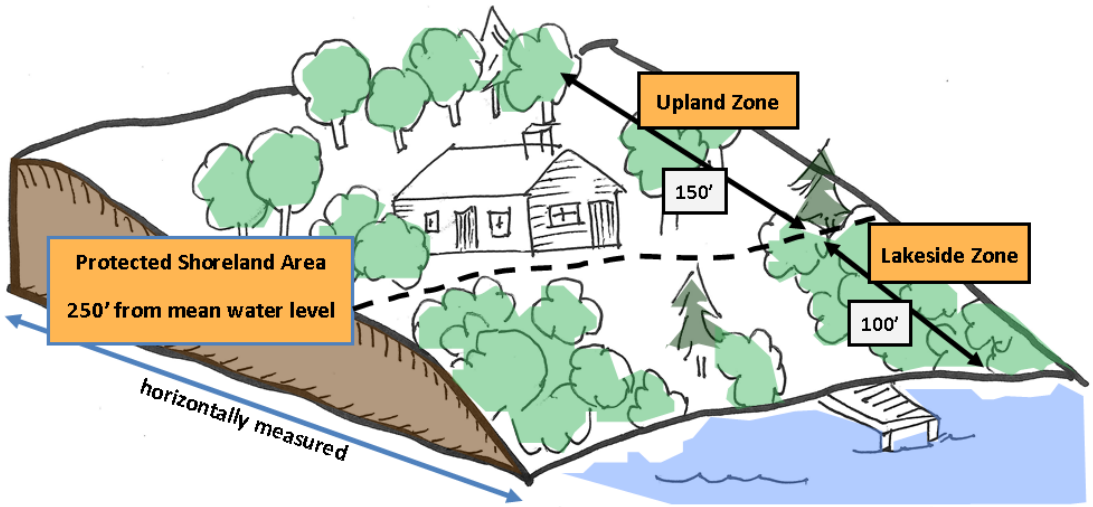
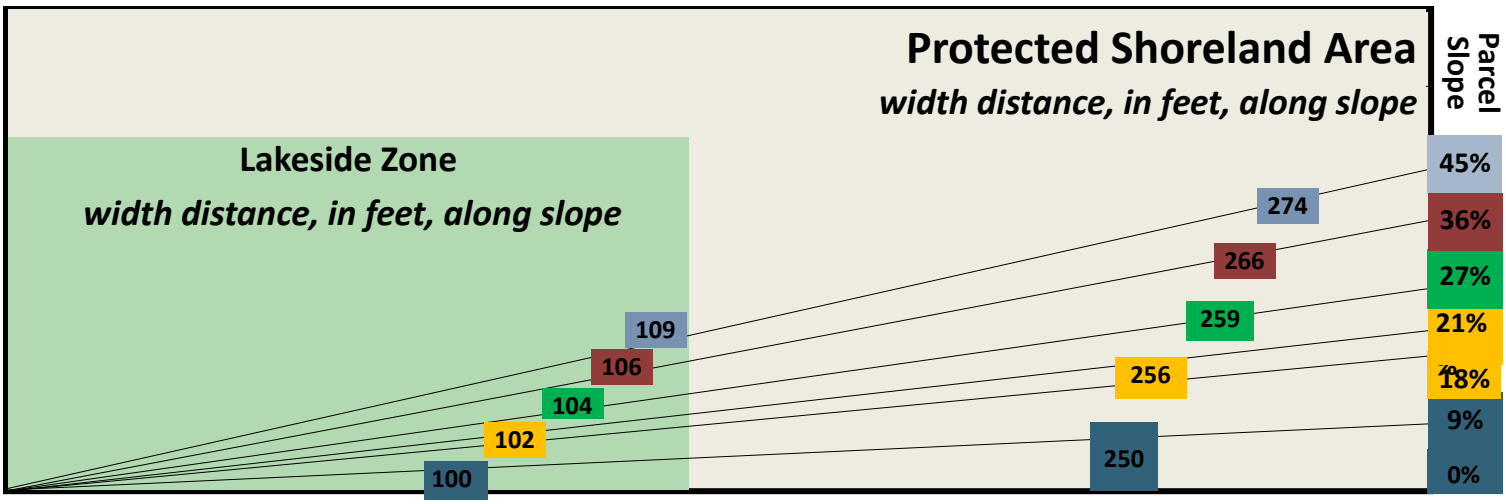
Determining Lakeside Zone and Protected Shoreland Area

The Vermont Shoreland Protection Act (Chapter 49A of Title 10, §1441 *et seq.*) applies to the activities within 250 feet of a lake's mean water level for all lakes greater than 10 acres in size. This area is known as the Protected Shoreland Area (PSA), and the 250 feet is measured horizontally. The PSA is comprised of the Lakeside and Upland Zones.



Determining the Lakeside Zone and Protected Shoreland Area Boundaries

Measuring horizontal distance, especially on sloped land, can be challenging. To simplify the calculations, the table below converts sloped distance to horizontal distance. First, you will need to know where the **mean water level** is and the **slope** of your parcel. To find these measurements, refer to the guidance documents *Estimating Mean Water Level* and *Determining the Slope of Your Shoreland,* which are other appendices in *The Vermont Shoreland Protection Act - A Handbook for Shoreland Development*.

Based on the slope of your parcel, find the closest approximate slope in the diagram below, and take note of the associated distance for determining the boundary of the Lakeside Zone or PSA. Using a measuring tape or wheel, measure out the approximate Lakeside Zone or PSA depth from the mean water level. This measurement approximates the boundary of the Lakeside Zone or PSA on your property. For future reference, you may find it helpful to mark the Lakeside Zone and PSA boundaries with a couple of bird houses, a row of shrubs, a few paint blazes on adjacent trees, or another distinctive mark.