

Schoolcraft County Property Activities Permitting Guide

If you are planning changes to your Schoolcraft County property, it is helpful to know what permits may be required. This document was created to help you determine those permit requirements, and to give you contacts and offices from which you may obtain those permits and/or answers to your questions. Depending on the activities planned, permits may be required from one or more agencies/offices.

Regarding the plans for your property:

1. Do your plans involve an earth change or soil disturbance? **If Yes, go to Step 2; if No, go to Step 4.**
2. If an “earth change” or soil disturbance is planned, is it located within 500 feet of a lake or stream, or is it an acre or more in size, regardless of such proximity? **If Yes, go to Step 3; If No, go to Step 4.**
3. A Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC) permit is likely required. Contact Schoolcraft Conservation District (SCD) for assistance and/or permit application and information (phone 906.286.2890 or 906.202.0572, or visit their website at www.schoolcraftcd.org.) Please note that a SESC permit can oftentimes be the last permit to be obtained before an earth change begins, as it is the easiest to acquire and there is no need to spend money for this permit if one or more other permits are required and may not be granted. **Go to Step 4.**
4. Is the property within a Critical Dunes Area (CDA) of the county? (Michigan CDA’s can be found online at https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3311_4114-70207--,00.html and in Schoolcraft County are only in the very southern parts of Doyle and Mueller townships). **If Yes, almost all activities require a permit. Contact SCD for help, or Casey Hares at Michigan’s Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) for assistance (phone 906.869.0745). Go to Step 5.**
5. Is work planned in the water or below the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) of a lake or stream? **If Yes, contact SCD or EGLE for assistance. A permit from one or both agencies will likely be required. Go to Step 6.**
6. Is a structure or a structure modification or addition planned? **If Yes, contact the Schoolcraft County Equalization/Building office in Room 207 of the county courthouse for information and permit(s): Phone 906.341.3677. Go to Step 7.**
7. Is a driveway and/or culvert planned within a public road Right-of-Way (ROW), whether new or as a modification of an existing driveway? **If Yes, contact the Schoolcraft County Road Commission at 906.341.5634. A permit is likely required from the Road Commission, and a SESC permit may be required also, as outlined above – contact SCD for assistance. Go to Step 8.**
8. Does the planned activity involve a well and/or septic? **If Yes, contact the Luce-Mackinac-Alger-Schoolcraft (LMAS) District Health Department at 906.341.6951 in Room 155 of the county courthouse. A SESC permit may be required depending on proximity to a lake or stream; Contact SCD for assistance.**

In ALL cases of any soil disturbance, whether or not a permit is required, you are required to use methods and/or control measures to assure that no soil or sediment (mineral soil or humus) enters a lake, stream, or an area considered a wetland!