

Shore Zone Definitions of Lake Tahoe

General Explanation of Shorezone Environment and Boundaries

The shorezone is defined as that area including the nearshore, foreshore and backshore (see diagram below). The shorezone is the part of Lake Tahoe that outwardly defines the Tahoe Basin as a memorable place for residents and visitors alike. The shorezone is also where development meets the water and where the risk of harming this beautiful body water is very high. For these reasons, environmental protection and improvement in the shorezone is an important gauge for the entire Basin and development within it must be reviewed under very high standards.

Nearshore: the area extending from the low water elevation of Lake Tahoe (6,223 feet) to a lake bottom elevation of 6,193 feet, but in any case, a minimum lateral distance of 350 feet measured perpendicular from the shoreline. In lagoons and lakes other than Lake Tahoe, the nearshore extends to a depth of 25 feet below the low water elevation.

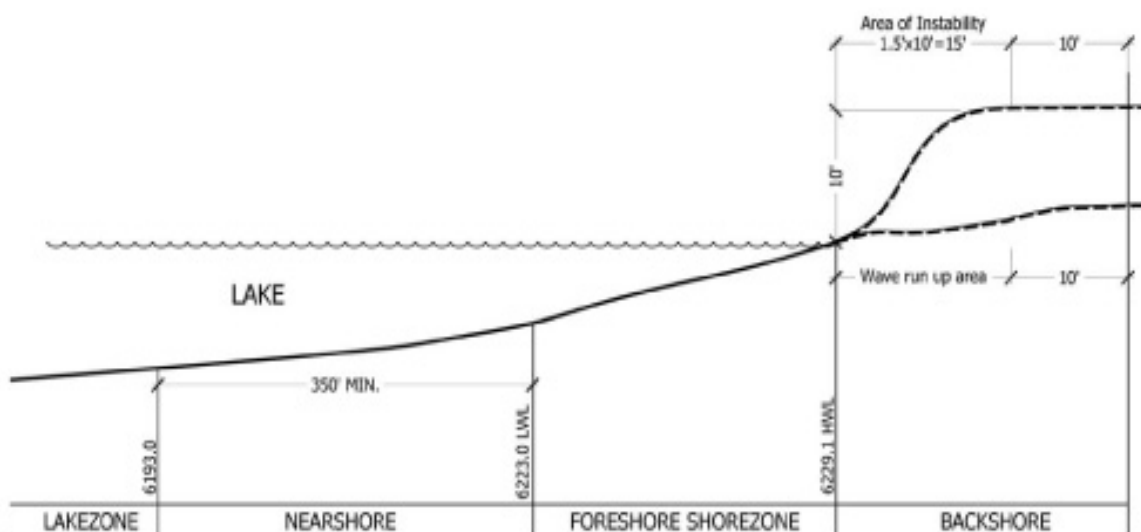
Foreshore: The area between the low and high water elevation.

Backshore: The lakeward limit of the backshore is at the high water elevation. The landward limit of the backshore is established using one of the following criteria, whichever establishes the wider backshore:

Wave Run-Up – The area of wave run-up, plus ten feet;

Instability – The area of instability, plus 10 feet. The area of instability is measured landward from the high water line a horizontal distance equal to 1.5 times the height of the bluff located adjacent to the shoreline. As an alternative, the area of instability may be determined through a report prepared by a licensed engineering geologist or soils engineer.

The **lakezone** is defined as that area of a lake located beyond the lakeward limits of the nearshore.



SHOREZONE - LAKEZONE DIAGRAM