

Wetland Conservation General Permit Application

Instructions Determine eligibility for this general permit:

- Choose an activity decision module on web, <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways>, **or**
- Review the eligibility criteria below.
 - If the project does not meet all of the eligibility standards, apply for an Individual Permit

To apply:

- Apply online using our online ePermitting System at <http://dnr.wi.gov/permits/water>.
- Include all required attachments. Each document must be less than 15 megabytes and our online system offers a help guide to reduce file sizes.
- Permit processing review times begin when all of the required application materials are received by the DNR. The department may require additional information to evaluate the project.
- If you have questions regarding your application, contact the local Water Management Specialist for your county, <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waterways/contacts.html#county>.
- Your signed submittal of this project application checklist constitutes a request that certifying authority (State of Wisconsin) review and take action on this CWA 401 certification request, as required, within the applicable reasonable period of time.

Please note, prior to starting any work at the project site, you are responsible for:

- Obtain all necessary local (e.g. city, town, village or county) permits.
- Obtain U.S. Army Corps of Engineer permits or approvals, <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.
- Any other applicable state permits

Required attachments - Forms or documents you upload in our online ePermitting System

- 1. Application form** - A complete, signed application form "Water Resources Application for Project Permits (WRAPP)" (Form 3500-053).
- 2. Application fee** - Payment must be submitted through the ePermitting System as part of the application process. A list of fees can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways/documents/PermitDocs/feesheet.pdf>.
- 3. Application Checklist** – a signed copy of the permit application checklist certifying that the applicant agrees to meet the eligibility criteria and permit conditions established in WDNR GP24-2023.
- 1. Ownership documentation** - (i.e. copy of deed, land contract, current property tax statement/receipt)
- 2. Photographs** that clearly show the on-the-ground conditions of the existing project areas. Remember that too much snow cover or vegetation may obscure important details. If possible, have another person stand near the project area for size reference. Color images are preferred.
- 3. Site maps** that clearly illustrate the location and perimeter of the project site, and its relationship to nearby water resources (e.g. lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands), major landmarks and roads. Provide copies of relevant maps (e.g. wetland, aerial, topographical, soil, floodplain, or zoning maps), with the project location clearly identified. The Department offers a web mapping tool to assist in creating these maps at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv/>.
- 4. Plans and specifications** that show what you intend to do. Plan drawings should be clear and to scale. Be sure to draw all plans as accurately and detailed as possible. The department reserves the right to require additional information to evaluate the project. Please refer to this sample drawing for assistance developing your plans and specifications, http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waterways/sample_drawings/DryHydrant.pdf.
- 5. Narrative description** of your proposal on a separate page. Please include:
 - What the project is, purpose of project, and need for the project
 - How you intend to carry out the project, including methods, materials, and equipment
 - Your proposed construction schedule and sequence of work
 - What temporary and permanent erosion control measures will be used
 - The location of any disposal area for dredged or excavated materials
 - For disturbances or fill, provide a description of type, composition, and quality of materials
 - How you plan to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to waterways
 - Area (e.g. linear feet) impacted

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6. Endangered and threatened Resources - The applicant is not required but is encouraged to request an endangered resources (ER) review letter before applying for the permit. Information on how to obtain a review can be found by visiting the website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/Review.html>. The applicant can also visit the NHI Public Portal, <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/PublicPortal.html>, to determine if a full ER Review is required. Read the 'What is an ER Preliminary Assessment and what do the results mean?' section to determine follow-up steps.

7. Historical and cultural resources - If you are aware there is a historical or cultural resource present, you are **required** to contact the Wisconsin State Historical Society to verify and receive documentation that the activity will not result in an adverse impact to these resources.

General Eligibility criteria:	
Projects that do not meet all criteria are not eligible for this general permit. If your project does not qualify for this general permit, you may apply for an individual permit.	
The project purpose is wetland conservation (restoration, enhancement, preservation or management of wetlands). For example, this general permit does not authorize the construction of a detention basin in wetlands for stormwater management, even if the detention basin or the project of which the basin is a part will also result in some habitat creation or enhancement. Similarly, this chapter does not authorize a flood control project that may also result in creation or enhancement of some wildlife habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project will result in net gains to wetland functions and will not result in a net loss of existing wetland acreage. For example, if the project places fill into an existing wetland, there must be a gain in at least the same amount of wetland as the existing wetland acreage lost due to filling. When assessing wetland functional values, use the Wisconsin Rapid Assessment Methodology found at: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wetlands/assessment.html .	<input type="checkbox"/>
Site conditions exhibit impacts to topography, soils, native vegetation or hydrology that have degraded a wetland and are potentially reversible.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project proposals that include existing wetlands on or adjacent to the project area are eligible for this general permit only if both of the following conditions are met: a. Agricultural crops, invasive wetland species or early successional hydrophyte species dominate the project area. b. The proposed activities will not cause significant adverse impact to undisturbed wetland plant communities on-site or adjacent to the project area.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project involves only the following wetland restoration or management activities that are designed and will be constructed to meet following applicable Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office Technical Guide Standard Conservation Practices: 378-Pond, 410-Grade Stabilization Structure, 587-Structure for Water Control, 638-Water & Sediment Control Basin, and 657-Wetland Restoration. a. Drain tile alteration or removal by disabling a section of drain tile or adding a water control structure within the existing tile line in the project area. b. Disabling artificial surface drains by filling lengths of the ditch downstream of the drainage system to be altered. Ditch fills may be added upstream of ditch plugs or ditch fill for the entire length of the ditch. Ditch plugs may be eliminated if the proposed ditch is completely filled with earth. c. Constructing dams or water control structures that include dikes, embankments and low berms to impede surface water drainage or runoff. d. Removing vegetation or post-European settlement deposition, including shallow scrapes, submerged islands and interconnected open water areas. e. Altering the hydrology of an area by removing pumps, breaching structures, such as dikes, or re-routing artificial drainage features or manipulation of water control structures. f. Introducing plants, installing and maintaining devices such as staff gauges, water level recording devices, and similar monitoring equipment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The discharge will cause only minimal adverse environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>
No activity is authorized which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act and/or State law or which is likely to destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of a species as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project is confined to non-navigable waters or waters that are navigable without stream history or is otherwise determined to not cause significant adverse impacts to those waters.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The activity shall not result in significant adverse impacts to fishery spawning habitat, including obstruction of fish passage, or adversely affect bird breeding areas or substantially disrupts the movement of species that normally migrate from open water to upland or vice versa (i.e., amphibians, reptiles and mammals) as determined by the Department.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project does not cause significant adverse impacts to cold water resources as defined in s. NR 102.04(3)(a). The project is not eligible for this general permit if any of the following are true:	<input type="checkbox"/>

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<p>a. The project will result in a permanent flow or discharge the drains to a cold water community.</p> <p>b. The artificial ditch has permanent flow that discharges to a cold water community, unless the project fills the entire ditch or disables an entire tile line without increasing pooling or ponding. This scenario includes drain tiles with permanent flow that discharges to the artificial ditch.</p> <p>c. The artificial ditch has intermittent flow that discharges to a cold water community, unless the project fills the entire ditch or fills a portion of the ditch starting at the beginning point of the ditch and continues to fill the ditch toward the cold water stream.</p> <p>d. The scrape is proposed in an area with evidence of spring activity.</p>	
<p>Project activities will not take place in or result in the conversion of sedge meadows, forested wetlands, rare wetland community types such as calcareous fens, and undisturbed wetland plant communities, such as wetlands dominated by non-invasive native hydrophytes on site where hydrology has not been altered.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Activities are allowed in or adjacent to existing wetlands if the project meets one or both of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A degraded wetland plant community dominated by agricultural crops, early successional hydrophytes, invasive plants or non-native plants. No restrictions are placed on the wetland restoration activity method(s) selected. To determine which species are considered invasive, see https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword "invasive plants." • A wetland plant community dominated by a mix of invasive, early successional, non-native and non-invasive native plants. This wetland plant community type must also exhibit site alterations, such as ditching or tiling, that have effectively impacted wetland hydrology. Wetland hydrology restoration is restricted to the following methods: (1) ditch fills; (2) ditch plugs; (3) tile breaks and (4) tile removals. Earth disturbing activities, such as scrapes necessary for borrow material, shall be restricted to invasive or non-native plant species dominated areas. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The project does not involve the planned introduction of non-native or invasive wetland plants</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The project does not involve the control of native wetland plant species unless the applicant has demonstrated that the activity is to maintain a wetland community or to diversify a monotypic stand of invasive wetland plants</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The project includes a re-vegetation plan that adequately stabilizes the site</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The activity will not result in adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources and will comply with s. 44.40, Wis. Stats. as determined by the Department</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Follow the most recent Department approved washing and disinfection protocols and Department approved best management practices to avoid the spread of invasive species as outlined in ch. NR 40, Wis. Adm. Code. These protocols and practices can be found on the Department website at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword "invasive species BMPs".</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The project will not occur in a mapped floodplain (official Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or local zoning map), or if the project is located in a regulated floodplain, the applicant has certified that they are working to or have obtained applicable floodplain permits or approvals from the local zoning authority.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The project will not result in adverse impacts to adjacent properties unless appropriate signed agreements have been made with the affected landowners. For example, project activities that result in water impoundment cannot flood or impede drainage of the adjacent properties. Note: Some wetland conservation projects may involve multiple landowners that have signed on to binding NRCS and FWS agreements that include their property within the boundaries of the wetland conservation project.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The project may not negatively impact wetland water quality standards, as defined in s. NR 103.03, Wis. Adm. Code, including (but not limited to) the flow of groundwater through a wetland and water level elevations within wetlands.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Repairs (not enhancements or expansions) associated with this project are allowed without additional permits, provided the repairs are within the original scope and footprint of the original permit.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eligibility Criteria for Projects Sponsored by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS):	
<p>The NRCS or the FWS is the project sponsor for the wetland restoration project. For wetland restoration projects conducted on private lands, NRCS and/or FWS have obtained a binding wetland conservation project agreement with the landowner(s).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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<p>A dam or water control structure placed across a watercourse must meet the definition of a small dam, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Dam failure will not endanger life, health, or property.ii. Dam structural height is less than 25 feet and the maximum storage capacity is less than 50 acre-feet of water. <p>Note: Please reference "Large Dam vs. Small Dam Diagram" for the necessary criteria at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/ with keyword "large dam small dam max".</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eligibility Criteria for Projects Not Sponsored by NRCS or FWS	
<p>A dam or water control structure placed across a water course must meet a. and b. or a. and c.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Dam failure will not endanger life, health, or property <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">b) Dam structural height is 2 feet or less and the maximum storage capacity is less than 50 acre-feet of water. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">c) Dam structural height is 6 feet or less and the maximum storage capacity is less than 50 acre-feet of water and the dam has been designed by a professional engineer registered in Wisconsin.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other Authorities

By checking this box, I certify that the proposed project will not occur in a mapped floodplain (official Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or local zoning map), or if the project is located in a regulated floodplain, I am obtaining or have obtained applicable floodplain permits from the local zoning authority.

Certification

I certify that I have read and understand all project eligibility criteria and agree to design and construct my project in accordance with all listed eligibility criteria found in this checklist. In addition, I agree to meet all conditions required for structure placement as identified in the above referenced eligibility criteria.

This form may be signed electronically, pursuant to Wis. Stat. Chapter 137. By checking the electronic signature acknowledgement box and typing your name, you are expressing intent to sign this form and certifying that all information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete, to the best of your knowledge and belief. If you decline to sign this form electronically, you must physically sign this form and all other forms required for your project.

Signature

Date signed