



COUNTY OF STEARNS

Environmental Services Department

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WETLAND ADVISORY

Will your proposed project result in impacts to wetlands?

A wetland is transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually near the surface of the land or is covered by shallow water. Wetlands have soils that developed in wet conditions and vegetation adapted to wet soil conditions. Wetlands may also be referred to as swamps, sloughs, nuisance-wet spots, or low ground. The MN Board of Water and Soil Resources' website <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/> has much information about wetlands with pictures at http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/wca/Wetlands_in_MN.pdf

There are eight types of wetlands in Minnesota:

- ◆ Type 1 - Seasonally flooded basins or flats. Soil is covered with water or waterlogged during seasonal periods, but is usually well drained during the growing season.
- ◆ Type 2 - Wet meadows. Soil is usually without standing water most of the growing season but is waterlogged within a few inches of the surface.
- ◆ Type 3 - Shallow marshes. Soils are usually waterlogged during the growing season and covered with up to 6 inches of water. Many have cattails, bulrushes and some open water.
- ◆ Type 4 - Deep marshes. Soils are usually covered with 6-inches to 3-feet of water during the growing season. Many have cattails and bulrushes and small open water areas.
- ◆ Type 5 - Open water wetlands. Shallow-water ponds and reservoirs with water 3 to 10 feet deep.
- ◆ Type 6 - Shrub swamps. Soil is usually waterlogged during the growing season and is often covered with as much as 6-inches of water.
- ◆ Type 7 - Wooded swamps. Soil is waterlogged at least to within a few inches of the surface during the growing season. Occur mostly along sluggish streams and flood plains.
- ◆ Type 8 - Bogs. Soil is usually waterlogged and supports a spongy covering of mosses.

State of Minnesota and Federal Law prohibits the draining, filling and some excavation of wetlands, unless specifically approved or exempted by the appropriate authorities. Stearns County Environmental Services administers the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers administers Section 404 of the Clean Waters Act.

Filling, draining and some excavation in a wetland in violation of the Minnesota WCA or the Clean Waters Act can result in criminal penalties and fines. If a violation exists on a property, a restoration order may be issued that requires the property owner to restore the impacted wetland to its former condition (this may include the removal of buildings and all fill material in the impact area).

As the applicant for this permit or project, you are responsible for determining whether any wetlands will be affected by this proposed project. If you believe there is potential for wetland impacts associated with your project, you are advised to contact Stearns County Environmental Services before commencing any such work. Please call Environmental Services (320) 656-3613 and ask for wetland staff.