

WETLANDS HANDOUT



Wetlands are areas of land that have hydric soils, saturation within 12 inches of the surface during all or a portion of the growing season, and support a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation. They are not always easily identifiable and may appear to be dry and grassy at times.

In Sherburne County any impacts to a wetland requires a Wetland Permit.



Why are wetlands important?

Wetlands provide a number of functions and values:

- Wetlands are a natural filter - they store and trap nutrients and pollutant
- Wetlands reduce erosion and sedimentation to our lakes and rivers
- Wetlands reduce flood levels by slowing runoff
- Many animals depend on wetlands for habitat and reproduction
- 43% of threatened and endangered species live or depend on wetlands

Water Fact:
Wetlands are considered the kidney of the water cycle.

It is recommended to hire a Wetland Professional to help you through the application process, especially for delineations or replacement plans.

Wetland Conservation Act

The Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) was enacted in 1991. The main goal of this act is to:

- Achieve no net loss in the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of Minnesota's existing wetlands
- Increase the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of wetlands by restoring or enhancing impacted wetlands
- Avoid direct and indirect impacts from activities that destroy or diminish wetlands
- Replace wetlands where avoidance of an activity is not feasible

What is an impact?

In Sherburne County any impacts to a wetland requires a Wetland Permit. An impact is defined as the loss in the quantity, quality or biological diversity of a wetland caused by draining and filling, and the excavation in permanently and semipermanently flooded areas.

Common permitted projects

Below are some common permitted wetland projects:

- Pond excavations
- Wetland crossings
- Grading in low areas