

## Recreational Development Wetland Discharge General Permit Application Instructions

The General Permit (WDNR-GP4-2018) is available under section 281.36 (3g), Wis. Stats. for a permanent or temporary discharge to or fill of wetlands of no more than 10,000 square feet that is part of a recreational development. To qualify for this general permit, your project must meet all eligibility standards listed below and all other terms and conditions outlined in WDNR-GP4-2018.

Bridges that completely span wetlands, or some boardwalks built on pilings, are typically not regulated as wetland fill. Direct placement of dirt, gravel or other soil material, or placement of puncheons is regulated as wetland fill and require a permit. If you have a question about whether your trail may need a permit, contact your local Water Management Specialist or U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (ACOE) project manager.

**Note:** crossing a navigable waterway requires a Wisconsin DNR permit, may require an ACOE permit, and must also meet local shoreland and/or floodplain zoning requirements.

### 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 for this general permit:

- Apply online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/permits/water>
- Include all required attachments. Failure to include all of the required information will result in an incomplete permit application and delay the processing of your permit.
- 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 the project does not meet all of the eligibility standards, then apply for an Individual Permit
  - The department also has authority under s. 281.39(3g)(i), Wis. Stats. To require an individual permit in lieu of a general permit, if the Department has determined that conditions specific to the site require additional restrictions on the discharge or fill to provide reasonable assurance that no significant adverse impacts to wetland functional values will occur.

### 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. **Ownership documentation** - (i.e. copy of deed, land contract, current property tax statement/receipt)

4. **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.

5. **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/>. Be sure to include:

- Clear directions to the project site with project and property boundaries clearly labeled
- Wisconsin wetland inventory map
- Soil survey map
- Topographic map
- Floodplain map
- Recent aerial map of site area with the locations of all proposed wetland fill/crossings clearly labeled.

6. **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.

- Plans showing the proposed disturbance or fill (both temporary and permanent), including the location, dimensions and area of wetland impact.
- Cross-section view(s) for each wetland impact area
- Location of any waterways and wetlands, including dimensions and area of impact, and description of wetland type.

7. **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, equipment, and long-term site management
- Your proposed construction schedule and sequence of work
- What temporary and permanent erosion control measures will be used
- The temporary and permanent location of any disposal area for excavated materials, if applicable
- 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
- Description of the type, composition and quantity of material proposed to be used for the discharge or fill
- If temporary wetland impacts, provide a detailed restoration plan
- Linear miles of trail, total surface area of land disturbance, number and size of (length and width, square feet, or acres) of proposed wetland crossing(s).

8. **Wetland delineation report** is required. Wetland delineation reports either need to be conducted by an Assured Delineator (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wetlands/assurance.html>) or to have received concurrence from either WI DNR Wetland ID program (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wetlands/identification.html>) or by the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) prior to submittal of the application. The department's local reviewer and the applicant(s) may agree in advance that a delineation is not necessary for the given site or area of impact. If this is true, please submit documentation from the local reviewer at the time of application.

9. **Alternatives analysis** - Provide clear, detailed documentation on how the wetland impact was avoided and minimized. Include the following information:

- Background or description of the project
  - Describe the purpose and need for the project, and explain why the project must impact wetlands
  - Explain if the project an expansion of existing work or is it new construction
- Alternatives
  - Explain the alternative location(s) to avoid wetland impacts such as a different trail alignment, obtaining an upland easement or upland location for the structure or facility.
  - Explain any alternative design(s) to minimize wetland impacts such as a span bridge or boardwalk instead of a puncheon or building a narrowing structure with less vegetation removal.
  - Explain What you plan to do to minimize adverse effects on the wetlands during your project (e.g. erosion control, minimize vegetation clearing for construction, avoid more sensitive wetland types, timing of construction, other best management practices, etc.)

10. **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.

11. **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.

<b>Eligibility criteria:</b>	
Projects that do not meet all criteria are not eligible for this general permit and are therefore excluded from coverage under WDNR-GP4-2018. For projects that do not qualify for WDNR-GP4-2018, you may apply for a wetland individual permit as outlined in section 281.36(3m), Wis. Stats.	
Project purpose is to conduct construction activities to build, reconstruct or maintain a recreational structure or facility.	
Project discharge does not affect more than 10,000 square feet (0.23 acre) of wetland as part of a single and complete project.	
Project applicant is the landowner or easement holder or otherwise has legal permission to proceed.	
Discharge will not occur in any of the following wetland resources: Great Lakes ridge and swale complexes, inter-dunal wetlands, coastal plain marshes, emergent marshes containing wild rice, southern sphagnum bogs, boreal rich fens, or calcareous fens.	
The proposed project cannot avoid wetland impacts.	
The proposed project minimizes wetland impacts to the greatest extent practicable.	
The discharge will cause only minimal adverse environmental effects.	
The project will be constructed in a manner that will maintain wetland hydrology in the remaining wetland complex.	

Clearing of vegetation, which results in fill to the wetland, for the purpose of placing structures covered by this permit shall be the minimum necessary to provide a safe corridor.	
The project meets or exceeds the stormwater management technical standards of ss. NR 151.11 and 151.12, Wis. Adm. Code for stormwater discharges. The technical standards are found at: <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stormwater/">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stormwater/</a>	
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.	
The activity shall not result in significant adverse impacts to fishery spawning habitat including obstruction of fish passage, to bird breeding areas, or to 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.	
The activity will not result in adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources and will comply with s. 44.40, Wisconsin Statutes as determined by the department.	