

Recognizing Wetland Types

Wetland "Types" is a legal term used by wetland professionals. The following wetland Types are common in Anoka County:



Type 1: Seasonally Flooded

May have water for very short period



What You Need to Know



Learn more!

www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wca-program-guidance-and-information

www.dnr.state.mn.us/wetlands



Mission

To manage groundwater and surface water drainage systems to prevent property damage, maintain hydrologic balance, protect water quality for the safety and enjoyment of citizens and preservation and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

What are Wetlands?

Most people think of wetlands as open water with lily pads, cattails and ducks. Yet, many wetlands look quite different from this! A wetland may have no visible water for part or all of the year. Some wetlands have trees and shrubs while others are farmed. Wetlands include meadows, shrub swamps, bogs, and fens.



What Determines a Wetland?

Legally, under *Normal** circumstances, a wetland must meet 3 criteria:

1. Soil: hydric, developed under wet conditions
2. Hydrology: saturated soil (water within 12") or standing water for 14 or more consecutive days out of the year
3. Vegetation: supports or is able to support plants adapted to saturated, low oxygen soil conditions

*Many Anoka County wetlands are not Normal and so require special criteria

Importance of Wetlands

Wetlands can

- reduce flooding by slowing water runoff
- help us meet water quality requirements by filtering out pollutants
- provide habitat for many plants and wildlife
- provide opportunities for recreation like canoeing, hunting, fishing, hiking, birding
- be important outdoor science and art classrooms
- maintain stream flows during droughts
- recharge drinking water supplies



Let's Talk Legal

The importance of wetlands resulted in the MN Wetlands Conservation Act. It calls for 'no net loss' of wetlands.

The draining, filling, & excavation of wetlands needs to be avoided, or minimized & offset by wetland replacement ("mitigation"). This is determined in the permitting process.

A permit from the Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) is required within the CCWD boundary. Outside of CCWD and within Anoka County, contact the Anoka Conservation District at 763.434.2030

Violations

Without a permit, the excavation, draining, or adding of fill in wetlands is a violation. A Cease & Desist Order and/or Restoration Order may be issued.

How to Help

1. Don't mow low areas
2. Remove fill, including leaves, brush, grass clippings, rock piles, trash, turf

These can compact soil which reduces filtering and water storage capacity



3. Find out if yours is a **wetland mitigation** site.

No mowing or impacts are allowed in mitigation sites. These are specifically designed to replace the benefits of a wetland lost to development. Note: you can be held responsible for violations even if you do not know your wetland is a mitigation site.

Unsure about a wetland on or near your property? Call your city, county conservation district, or watershed district.

CCWD: 763.755.0975 or info@cooncreekwd.org