

Wetland Identification Service and Artificial Wetland Exemptions

Some artificially created wetlands are exempt from state* wetland laws. These exemptions are specifically for:

- A. Sedimentation and stormwater detention basins and associated conveyance features operated and maintained only for sediment detention and flood storage purposes.
- B. Active sewage lagoons, cooling ponds, waste disposal pits, fish rearing ponds and landscape ponds.
- C. Actively maintained farm drainage and roadside ditches.
- D. Artificial wetlands within active nonmetallic mining operations.

Artificial wetlands have no previous wetland or waterway history. To meet the exemption criteria, the wetland must be both artificial and meet one of the classifications listed above.

Beginning in spring of 2015, the Wetland Identification Program will offer a formal review process (fees will be required based on project size) to help landowners determine if a wetland meets the state artificial exemption standards.

*These exemptions do not exist in Federal law, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should be contacted for Federal permit determinations.



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Why

- Ensure a consistent, statewide approach for reviewing potentially exempt wetlands
- Improve efficiency related to potential exemption determinations

When

An artificial wetland exemption review is not required for all projects.

For example, if a project is not going to impact a potentially exempt wetland, there is not a need to request an exemption review.

The artificial exemption review process is offered for project proponents who want peace of mind that their activities are in compliance with state wetland regulations. Examples of projects that may want to utilize the service include, but are not limited to:

- Filling or grading in a roadside ditch wetland
- Filling or grading in a landscape pond
- Filling or grading in a stormwater treatment facility, including ponds and ditches

How

1. Identify the potentially exempt wetland on a map
2. Determine if the wetland is **both** artificial, **and** meets one of the exemptions listed on the front of this brochure.
3. Submit artificial exemption request service materials to DNR.

Materials can be found here: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wetlands/identification.html>

For More Information

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