# Hydrologic Restoration General Permit: GP22 Fact Sheet

For projects that have a primary purpose of improving hydrologic conditions, connections, and function

Pre-applications are encouraged!

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Applicants are encouraged to request a pre-application meeting with the Department's local Water Management Specialist (WMS) - especially if any of the following apply:

- ✓ Activities affect multiple waterways and wetlands.
- ✓ Proposing permanent discharges to wetlands.
- ✓ The project may affect ASNRIs or wetlands of high value as listed under 281.36(3g)(d).
- ✓ The project may impound or divert water or change stream channels.
- ✓ The project is located in a Zone A or Zone AE mapped floodplain.

## Eligible projects are designed to:

- Restore hydrology of wetlands, streams, and/or floodplains to a natural, self-regulating condition.
- These goals are often achieved by reconnecting streams and floodplains, reestablishing healthy channel form and condition, removing or reducing wetland drainage, restoring or improving the natural flow and movement of water or sediment, or reestablishing vegetation to support site stability and help manage flow and infiltration.
- Outcomes of these projects often include slowing the flow of runoff, reducing flood peak flows, restoring surface and groundwater interactions, improving water quality, increasing soil retention, increasing groundwater infiltration, increasing base flow, increasing upper watershed storage, and increasing flood resilience.

## Hydrologic restoration is NOT proposing to:

- Construct artificial wetlands.
- Construct stormwater treatment ponds.
- Construct large dams or dams posing risk to health, life, and safety.
- Straighten streams, dredge sediment, armor banks, enhance fish/wildlife habitats, or create berms, unless these actions are necessary elements of a larger hydrolgic restoraton plan. These practices should be submitted through other permitting options.

## Basic Requirements for GP22 projects:

- Projects must demonstrate an overall net environmental benefit and/or improvement to the public interest in navigable waters by improving hydrologic conditions, connections and function.
- Applications must include a detailed narrative describing the anticipated hydrologic restoration goals of the proposed project. A detailed narrative should describe how water moved through the watershed historically, the activities that have changed the way water moves through the watershed, and the actions that will be taken to return the watershed's hydrology closer to a natural and self regulating condition.
- Projects may not result in significant adverse impacts to the public rights and interests, injure riparian property rights of adjacent riparian owners, or result in adverse environmental impacts. Minimal adverse impacts to waterways or wetlands may be allowed if they are temporary.
- See GP 22 for a complete list of standards that must be fulfilled.

## How to apply for GP22:

- Visit the DNR's Water Permits homepage (https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/permits/water), expand the "Waterway and wetland" activities category, and view the list of application types listed alphabetically with a link in the right-handed column to start an application.
- If the project is not eligible for the GP22, see other General Permit options that may be approprite.

**Reminder**: Projects must comply with local floodplain and shoreland zoning requirements.

*Guidance Number: 3500-2025-01*
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