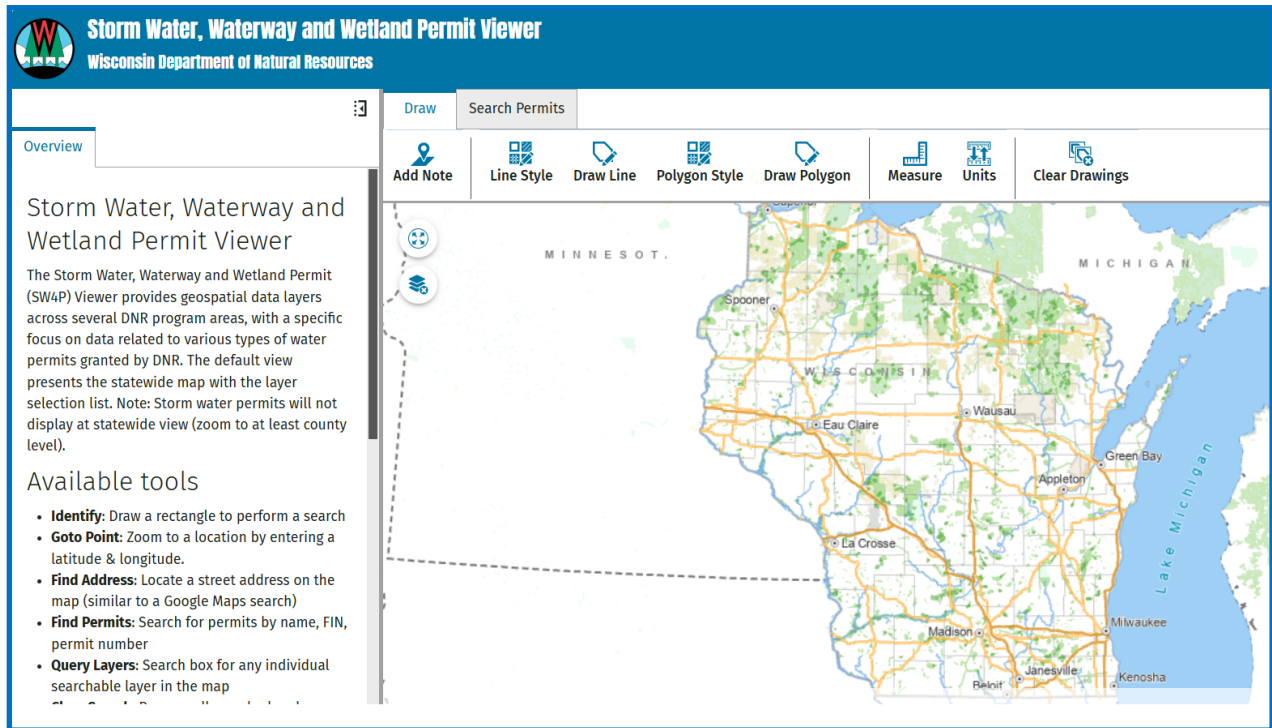


# DNR Wetland Permitting FAQs

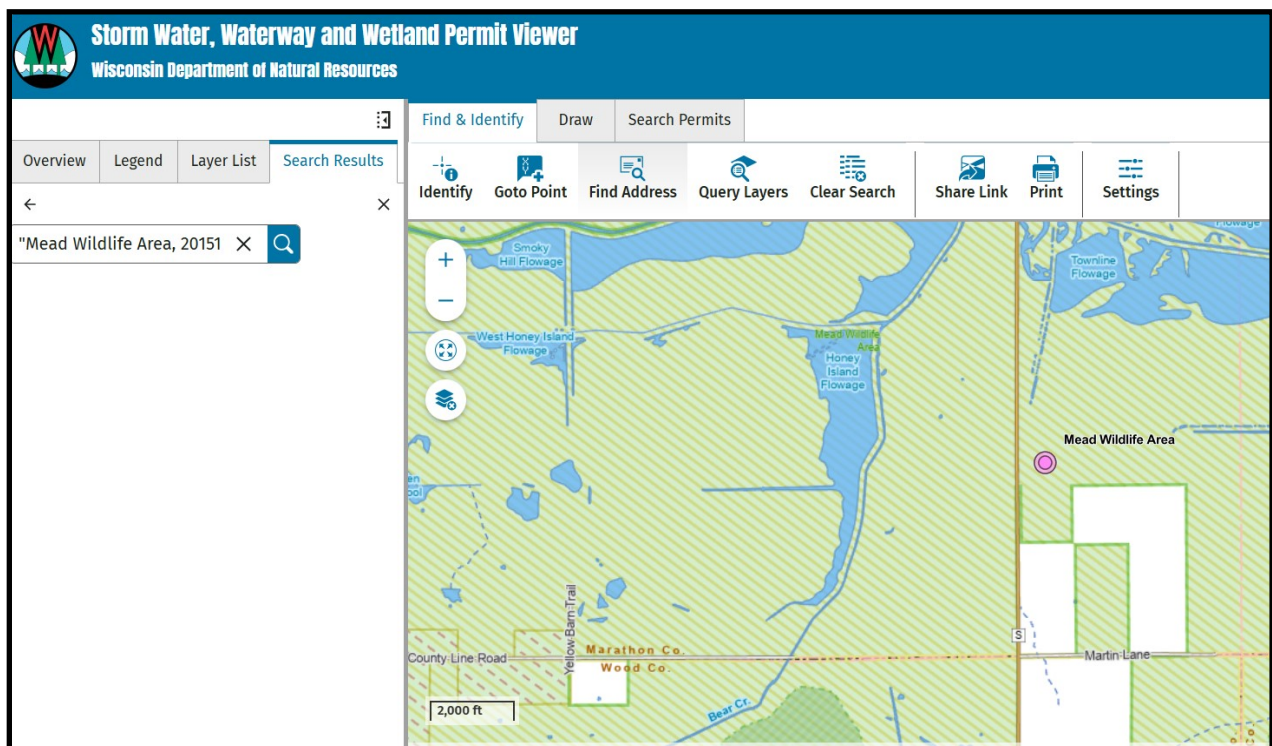


## How do Map My Property for Wetlands?

1. Open the [Surface Water, Waterway, and Wetland Permit Viewer](https://dnrmaps.wi.gov/vertigisstudio/web/?app=75e00c9b9c6b4d0e924994757a0d14a6) (SW4P)  
<https://dnrmaps.wi.gov/vertigisstudio/web/?app=75e00c9b9c6b4d0e924994757a0d14a6>

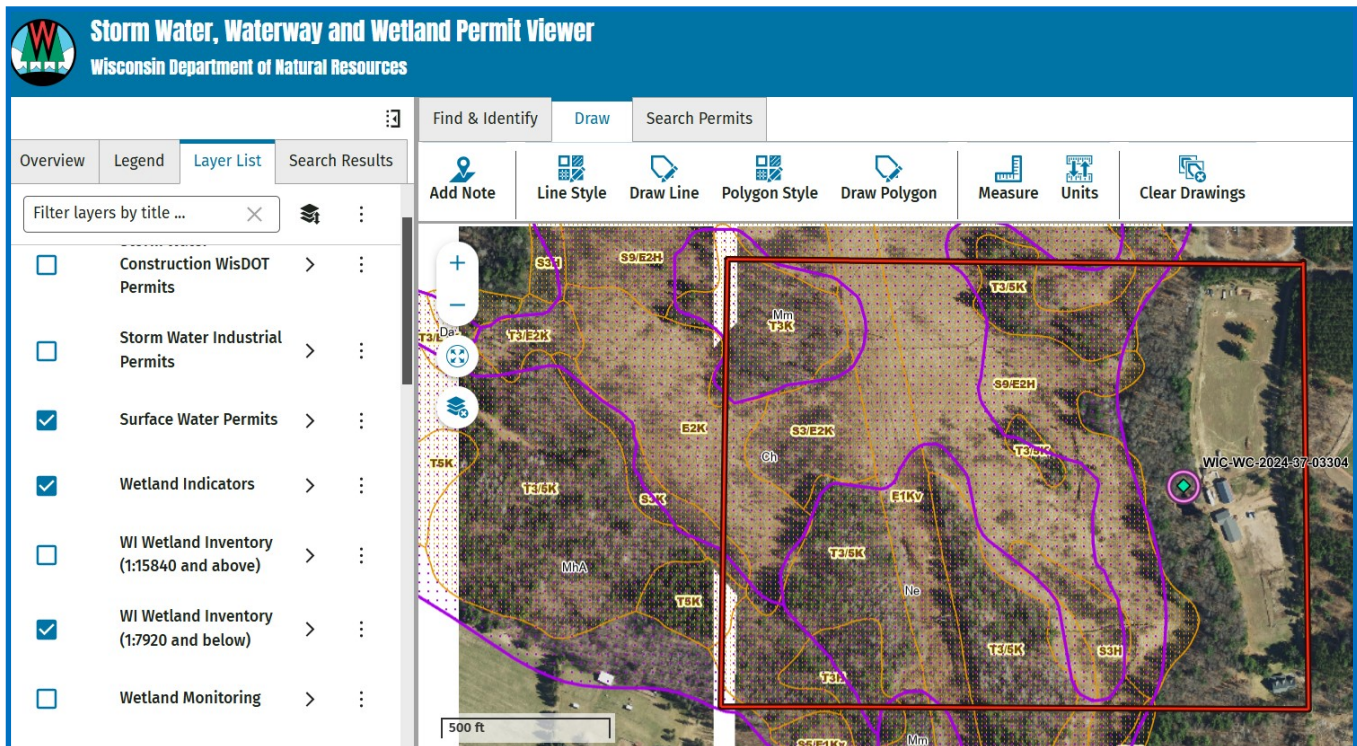


2. Zoom to the location using the “Goto Point” feature and entering lat/long or “Find Address” feature.



3. Turn on these wetland layers:

- “Surface Water Permits” (this shows previous wetland identifications and delineation confirmations completed on the property)
- “Wetland Indicators”
- “WI Wetland Inventory (1:7290 and below)”



4. Map Results

- Wetland indicators - purple areas
- Mapped wetlands - yellow areas
- Wetland identifications and confirmations - green diamonds, click to see the year

If there are wetland indicators or mapped wetlands on the property, there is a likelihood that wetlands are present. If you plan to avoid the mapped areas entirely with your project, then you do not need a DNR wetland permit. If you determine that wetland areas are unavoidable, or the property is mostly wetland area, then a full wetland delineation is recommended. There are typically several consultants available for wetland delineations in each region. The DNR wetland identification service can be used for sites with potential wetlands and upland areas to determine a yes/no boundary for wetland avoidance.

A previous wetland identification or confirmation within the last 5 years will show field confirmed wetland boundaries. You may use these for project planning if available.

## When Do I Need a Wetland Delineation and a Wetland Permit?

First note that state law requires that wetlands be avoided to the greatest extent practicable. As you consider building on your property, know that avoiding wetlands is required if you have upland areas on the property that can meet your project purpose and need. If you feel that wetlands are unavoidable, then we recommend a full wetland delineation which would be required with a permit application.

### Which Activities Typically Require a Wetland Permit?

- **Filling** – placing dredged or fill materials into a wetland, such as soil, concrete, gravel, etc.
- **Excavating** – removing material from a wetland.
- **Grading** – conducting earthwork to change the grade or contours of the land.
- **Drainage Projects** – excavation or grading in a wetland as part of a drain tile or drainage ditch project.
- **Mechanized Land Clearing** – clearing shrubs or trees from wetlands by bulldozing or grubbing and removing the root structures.
- **Placing Structures** – including but not limited to utility infrastructure, timber mats, sheds, soil or spoil piles, in a wetland

### DNR Wetland ID Service

- Best for avoiding wetlands with your project
- DNR completes a yes/no survey
- \$300 per acre up to 5 acres
- Completed during the growing season (typically May to October)

### Wetland Delineation

- Best if wetlands cannot be avoided with your project or if site is mostly wetlands.
- Completed by a consultant in your region, usually there are several options available.
- Cost in the thousands of dollars
- Completed during the growing season (typically May to October)

### Wetland General Permit for Residential/Commercial/Industrial Development

- Must avoid and minimize wetland impacts – build on upland areas when available.
- Eligible for up to 10,000 square feet of unavoidable wetland impacts.
- Single project, cannot be used to create a buildable lot to sell at a later time.
- [Wetland GP RCI Checklist \(3500-005\) \[PDF\]](#)

### Wetland General Permit for Recreational Development

- Must avoid and minimize wetland impacts – build on upland areas when available.
- Eligible for up to 10,000 square feet of unavoidable wetland impacts.
- Use for any recreational facility development, including trails, parks, etc.
- [Wetland GP Rec Development Checklist \(3500-148\) \[PDF\]](#)

\*To learn more about wetland delineations and to apply for a wetland permit using the online ePermitting system, visit:

[Wetland Permitting: Identification, Delineation, Exemptions, and Permit Options | Wisconsin DNR](#)

## **What is Wetland Addendum W for Purchase Offers?**

This addendum to a purchase offer for a property was created in partnership with the Wisconsin Realtors Association for prospective buyers to use for identifying wetlands. Addendum W can be filed as an addendum to a purchase offer, allowing a buyer to require the seller to verify wetland presence or absence on a property and to negotiate a mutual remedy with the seller if wetlands are identified.

- [Wetland Addendum W](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Wetlands_Real_Estate_Addendum_W_2021.pdf)  
[https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Wetlands Real\\_Estate\\_Addendum\\_W\\_2021.pdf](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Wetlands_Real_Estate_Addendum_W_2021.pdf)