

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
WATERWAY AND WETLAND GENERAL PERMIT  
GENERAL PERMIT FOR WETLAND DISCHARGE  
FOR RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**



**Permittee:** The General Public in Wisconsin

**Permit #:** WDNR-GP4-2023

**Issuing Office:** Waterways Program,  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Department)

**Issuance Date:** **Date**

**Expiration Date:** **Date**

**GENERAL PERMIT AUTHORIZATIONS**

In compliance with the provision(s) of s. 281.36 (3b)(b), Wis. Stats., no person may discharge/place dredged or fill material into a wetland unless the discharge is authorized by a wetland general permit or individual permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources (Department) or the discharge is exempt under s. 281.36, Wis. Stats.

The Department has authority to issue general permits under s. 281.36(3g), Wis. Stats. Pursuant to s. 281.36(3b)(a), Wis. Stats., a wetland general permit issued by the Department constitutes the water quality certification required by 33 USC 1341(a) (Clean Water Act section 401) for federal permits that authorize the discharge of dredged or fill material into wetlands regulated under 33 USC 1344(a) (Clean Water Act section 404) and have not already been certified through a previous Department action.

Section 281.36 (3g)(c), Wis. Stats., authorize any person in the State of Wisconsin to perform work in accordance with the terms and conditions of the general permit specified below after satisfying all applicable permit terms and conditions. Please refer to the following sections of this permit for the specific eligibility standards, application requirements, certification requirements and responsibilities, conditions, findings of fact, conclusions of law, and definitions required by WDNR-GP4-2023.

**Note:** Coverage under this permit authorizes the permittee to undertake specified activity/activities in compliance with the *above* statutes and the terms of this permit but does not authorize a permittee to undertake any activity prohibited by other applicable federal, state, or local law.

**OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS NECESSARY**

WDNR-GP4-2023 authorizations are subject to all applicable terms and conditions specified in this permit. However, WDNR-GP4-2023 authorizations do not supersede any other local, state or federal authority so additional permits may be required before any work may proceed. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act s. 404 permits are required for discharges of dredged or fill material to Waters of the United States, including discharges to federal wetlands. Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 permits

are required for work including the placement of structures and dredging in navigable waters of the United States. Floodplain permits (ch. NR 116, Wis. Adm. Code) or other local zoning permits may be required. Please contact your local zoning authority; county zoning administrator contact information is available at <https://www.wccadm.com/wcca-contacts>.

Additional waterway and wetland permitting may also be necessary depending on the project size, scope and purpose and need. Please visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>, keyword “water permitting” for more information.

This permit does not supersede any applicable easement(s) within the project boundary. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the proposed project does not conflict with existing land use or development restrictions, including easements, applicable to the property. This permit also does not authorize flooding or impeding drainage of the adjacent properties or upstream properties. It is the responsibility of the applicant to secure any necessary easements or other permissions from affected landowner(s).

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION**

WDNR-GP4-2023 applies to certain wetland activities undertaken as part of recreational development.

The following activities are eligible for coverage under WDNR-GP4-2023:

- Discharges affecting up to 10,000 square feet in size or dredged and/or fill material into wetlands if the discharge is for the purpose of building, reconstructing, or maintaining a recreational structure or facility as described herein, in the State of Wisconsin except for proposed tribal activities located on Federal Indian Trust lands. Discharges to wetlands are regulated under ss. 281.36 (3b), (3g), (3m), and (4), Wis. Stats.

**Note:** Bridges that completely span wetlands, and boardwalks built on driven pilings are typically not regulated as wetland fill. Direct placement of soil, dirt, gravel or other materials are regulated as wetland fill and require a permit. If you have a question about whether your project may need a permit, contact your local WDNR WMS or the local USACE staff.

**Note:** Crossing a navigable waterway requires a WDNR permit, may require a USACE permit, and must also meet local shoreland and/or floodplain zoning requirements.

## **GENERAL PERMIT COVERAGE**

Unless notified by the Department to the contrary, the effective date of coverage under this general permit is 30 calendar days after a complete application package has been received by the Department at the office designated in the permit application materials provided by the Department. **WDNR-GP4-2023 permit coverage is valid for 5 years after the date the coverage is granted by the Department.** If the project is not completed within 5 years after the date of coverage another application must be submitted. If the project scope changes within the valid period of the permit coverage the Department may require a new application or modify coverage if the project continues to meet all eligibility criteria. The 5-year timeline is based on the date coverage is granted by the department, not the expiration date of **WDNR-GP4-2023**.

State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
For the Secretary

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Ben Callan – Director  
Waterways Program

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Date

## Table of Contents

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA .....	4
SECTION 2. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS .....	6
SECTION 3. CERTIFICATION & RESPONSIBILITIES .....	8
SECTION 4. GENERAL PERMIT CONDITIONS .....	8
SECTION 5. FINDINGS OF FACT .....	10
SECTION 7. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW .....	11
SECTION 8. DEFINITION OF TERMS .....	11

### WDNR-GP4-2023 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following sections describe the general permit authorization procedures implemented by the DNR in WDNR-GP4-2023. Projects must meet all the terms and conditions of this permit to be eligible for coverage under WDNR-GP4-2023.

**Note:** The term "you" and its derivatives, as used in this general permit, means the permittee, which is the landowner. The term "the Department" or "this office" refers to the appropriate Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR or DNR) Service Center, DNR Region or Central Office headquarters of the WDNR having jurisdiction over the authorized activity or the appropriate official of that office acting under the authority of the Secretary of the Department.

The project must meet all the following standards to be eligible for coverage and authorization under this general permit. Persons proposing to do work should note that s. 281.36 (3g)(h), Wis. Stats., requires applicants to demonstrate that adverse impacts to wetland functions and values have been avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

**Note:** Projects that do not meet all standards below are not eligible for this general permit and are therefore excluded from coverage under WDNR-GP4-2023. In these cases, persons may apply for an Individual Permit as outlined in s. 281.36(3m), Wis. Stats. The Department also has authority under s. 281.36(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 to provide reasonable assurance that no significant adverse impacts to wetland functional values and floristic integrity will occur.

**Note:** Projects that may impact tribal lands or a legally recognized treaty right may need additional coordination.

### SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. The discharge will cause only minimal adverse environmental effects.

2. Construction shall be accomplished in such a manner as to minimize erosion and siltation into surface waters and wetlands. All erosion control measures shall meet or exceed the Department approved technical standards listed under subchapter 3 of ss. NR 151 Wis. Adm. Code. The technical standards are found at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>, keyword “stormwater technical standard”.
3. 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.
4. The activity shall not result in significant adverse impacts to fishery spawning habitat, including obstruction of fish passage, or adversely affect bird breeding areas or substantially disrupts 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.
5. 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.
6. Follow the most recent Department approved washing and disinfection protocols and Department approved best management practices to avoid the spread of invasive species as outlined in NR 40, Wis. Adm. Code. These protocols and practices can be found at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>, keyword “invasive species BMPs”.
7. The project will not occur in a mapped floodplain (official Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or local zoning map), or if the project is located in a regulated floodplain, the applicant has certified that they are working to or have obtained applicable floodplain permits or approvals from the local zoning authority.
8. Project purpose is to conduct construction activities to build, reconstruct, or maintain a recreational structure or facility.
9. Project applicant is the landowner or easement holder or otherwise has legal authorization to proceed.
10. The project is not eligible for authorization under a “Superior SAMP” permit reviewed by the City of Superior, Wisconsin.
11. Project discharge does not affect more than 10,000 square feet (0.23 acre) of wetland as part of a single and complete project.
12. The proposed project cannot practicably avoid wetland impacts.
13. The proposed project minimizes wetland impacts to the greatest extent practicable.
14. The project will be constructed in a manner that will maintain wetland hydrology in the remaining wetlands.
15. The project will not result in the conversion of a wetland to a storm water treatment facility such as a pond or infiltration basin.
16. Discharge will not occur in the following resources: Great Lakes ridge and swale complexes, interdunal wetlands, coastal plain marshes, emergent marshes containing wild rice, sphagnum bogs that are located in the area located south of a horizontal line drawn across the state based on the routes of STH 16 and STH 21 west of Lake Winnebago and on USH 151 east of Lake Winnebago, boreal rich fens, or calcareous fens.
17. 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.

18. This permit does not authorize impacts to navigable waterways waterward of the ordinary high mark.

**Note:** This does not preclude eligibility of waterway exemptions or eligibility of other general or individual permits. Waterway permitting information is available [dnr.wisconsin.gov](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov) keyword "waterway permit".

## SECTION 2. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. After you have carefully confirmed the proposed discharge of dredged and/or fill material into wetlands for recreational development meets all the terms and conditions of this permit you must submit a complete application package to the Department as outlined in item 6 below. Pursuant to s. 281.36(3g)(h)2, Wis. Stats., the complete application package should be received a minimum of 30 calendar days before the desired project start date. Permit application materials can be found and submitted online at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>, keyword "water permit".
2. Unless notified by the Department to the contrary, the effective date of coverage under this permit is 30 calendar days after the designated DNR office receives a complete application package.
3. The Department has one opportunity to request that you provide additional information necessary to verify compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit. If additional information is needed, the Department will notify you within 30 calendar days after receiving your application package. If the Department makes a request for additional information, the 30-day period is paused on the date the person applying for authorization receives the request for additional information. The clock remains paused until the date that the Department receives the information at the designated DNR office, at which point the clock resumes from the point it was initially stopped.
4. If adverse weather conditions prevent the Department from conducting an accurate on-site inspection or assessing the potential for site-specific impacts during the 30-day application period, the Department shall give notice to the applicant of this condition and shall complete the inspection as soon as weather conditions permit
5. As provided under s. 281.36 (3g)(i), Wis. Stats., the Department may determine the project is not eligible for this general permit and require the project be reviewed through the individual permit process outlined in s. 281.36(3m), Wis. Stats. If the Department determines your project is not eligible for this permit, you will be notified within 30 calendar days after your complete application package is received by DNR.
6. A complete application package must include all of the following information:
  - a. Complete and Signed Application Form certifying project meets the terms and conditions of WDNR-GP4-2023. This form can be found at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>, keyword "water permit".
  - b. Permit fees as shown on the fee sheet at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>, keyword "Waterway Permit Fee" except as follows:
    - Wetland and dam projects are exempt from wetland permit fees under ss. 281.36(12)(e) or 31.12(5), Wis. Stats., only if the project is conducted by a federal or state agency.
  - c. A copy of the deed or similar proof of ownership of the site where the activity will occur. If you do not own the site, also include proof of any notice(s) and permission(s) required under wetland eligibility criteria.
  - d. A signed permit checklist that confirms the applicant understands the eligibility standards specified in Section 1.
  - e. Project plans and narrative that include final project design and construction including a

project diagram that shows all of the following:

- The final proposed project plans relative to wetland boundaries with the location and size of all proposed wetland impacts clearly identified and quantified in square feet. Project plans must clearly differentiate between proposed permanent and temporary wetland impacts. Where applicable, provide the project location relative to any Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) of navigable waterways.
- Detailed documentation that clearly demonstrates why any proposed wetland impacts cannot be avoided, the practicable alternatives that were considered, and how the impact to the wetland will be minimized as required by s. 281.36(3g)(h)1, Wis. Stats.
- The methods, materials, and equipment that will be used to carry out the project.
- The location and type of temporary and permanent silt fences or any other sediment/erosion control devices.
- Top, side, and cross section plan profiles with appropriate measurements for the proposed project.
- The construction schedule and sequence of work.
- For disturbance or fill, a description of type, composition, and quality of materials.
- Area impacted for projects that impact waterways.
- The location of any disposal area for dredged or excavated materials, if applicable.
- Maps of the project site with information that includes: most recent Soil Survey map, WI Wetland Inventory map, topographic map, floodplain information, and aerial photographs. All maps must show basic map elements (e.g., scale) and clear directions to the project site with project and property boundaries clearly labeled. The aerial photo shall also show the locations of all proposed wetland fill or discharge clearly labeled, if applicable.
- Current photographs that represent existing site conditions where the project will occur. Photos must show a clear and unobstructed view of the wetland within the project area. (not covered in snow/ice/thick vegetation, etc.)
- A copy of a concurred with wetland delineation, a wetland delineation conducted by an assured wetland delineator, or a waiver by the WDNR Water Management Specialist (WMS) stating that a delineation is not needed.

**Note:** A delineation waiver or wetland identification service may be available on a case-by-case basis. A pre-application meeting with a water management specialist is required to determine if this waiver is acceptable for the specific project. For more information about the wetland identification or confirmation service, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/>, keyword: "wetland identification".

- Documentation verifying the project will not result in an adverse impact to federal or state threatened/endangered resources. Documentation options include:
  - i. An ER Review Verification Form showing that the project is covered by the Broad Incidental Take Permit for no/low impact activities and therefore does not require a review.
  - ii. An ER Preliminary Assessment from the NHI Public Portal stating that no further actions are necessary or that further actions are recommended. The NHI Public Portal is located at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>, keyword "NHI public portal".

- iii. If the ER Preliminary Assessment from the NHI Public Portal shows that "further actions are required" then submit one a Department **or** Certified ER Review letter. This request form for an ER Review letter and a list of Certified Reviewers is located at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>, keyword "ER review request".
- Documentation verifying the project will not result in an adverse impact to federal or state cultural/historical resources.

### **SECTION 3. CERTIFICATION & RESPONSIBILITIES**

You certify and agree that upon submittal of a complete application package to DNR, the wetland project will be conducted in compliance with all the terms and conditions of WDNR-GP4-2023.

### **SECTION 4. GENERAL PERMIT CONDITIONS**

The applicant agrees to comply with the following conditions:

1. Application. You shall submit a complete application package to the Department as outlined in the application materials and application requirements section of this permit. If requested, within a reasonable timeframe you shall furnish the Department any information it needs to verify compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit.
2. Certification. Acceptance of coverage under general permit WDNR-GP4-2023 and efforts to begin work on the activities authorized by this general permit signifies that you have certified the project meets all eligibility standards outlined above and that you have read, understood, and agreed to follow all terms and conditions of this general permit.
3. Reliance on Applicant's Data. The determination by this office that a confirmation of authorization is not contrary to wetland water quality standards will be based upon the information provided by the applicant and any other information required by the Department.
4. Project Plans. This permit does not authorize any work other than what is specifically described in the notification package and plans submitted to the Department and is certified by you to comply with the terms and conditions of WDNR-GP4-2023.
5. Expiration. The time limit for completing an activity authorized by the provisions of WDNR-GP4-2023 ends 5 years after the date on which the activity is considered to be authorized under WDNR-GP4-2023 or until the activity is completed, whichever occurs first, regardless of whether WDNR-GP4-2023 expired before the activity is completed. The Department's use of general permit WDNR-GP4-2023 established under s. 281.36(3g) Wis. Stats., expires on **Month, day, year.**
6. Written authorization for modification of scope. Any modification to the wetland impacts authorized under this general permit must be approved by the Department in writing to ensure that the project continues to meet the general permit eligibility in section 1. Separate permitting is necessary if the modified project scope no longer meets general permit eligibility.
7. Authorization Distribution. You must supply a copy of the permit coverage authorization to every contractor working on the project.
8. Project Start. You shall notify the Department using the information provided on the confirmation of coverage letter you receive before starting any activity and again not more than 5 days after each activity is completed.
9. Permit Posting. You must post a copy of this permit coverage letter at a conspicuous location on the project site before beginning the permitted activity. The copy of the permit coverage letter



must remain posted at that location until at least five days after the area where the activity took place is stabilized. You must also keep a copy of the permit coverage letter and the approved plan available at the project site at all times until the project is complete.

10. Permit Compliance. The Department may revoke coverage of this permit if it is not constructed in compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit. Any act of noncompliance with this permit constitutes a permit violation and is grounds for enforcement action.
11. Construction Timing. Once wetland work begins, all construction activities in those wetlands must be continuous to the extent practicable. During periods of inactivity in wetlands, the site must be stabilized until the work is resumed and completed. Construction should take place during frozen or dry conditions if practicable.
12. Construction. No other area of the wetland or waterway may be disturbed beyond the area designated in the submitted plans.
13. Project Completion. Within one week after completing the regulated activity, you shall submit to the Department a statement certifying the project complies with all the terms and conditions of this permit, and photographs of the activities authorized by this permit. This statement must reference the Department-issued docket number and be submitted to the Department staff member that authorized coverage.
14. Proper Maintenance. You must maintain the activity authorized by WDNR-GP4-2023 in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit using best management practices. Any structure or fill authorized shall be properly maintained to ensure no additional impacts to the remaining wetlands and waterways.
15. Site Access. Upon reasonable notice, you shall allow access to the site to any Department employee who is inspecting the project's construction, operation, maintenance or permit compliance with the terms and conditions of WDNR-GP4-2023 and applicable laws.
16. Erosion and Siltation Controls. The project site shall implement erosion and sediment control measures that adequately control or prevent erosion and prevent damage to wetlands as outlined in s. NR 151.11(6m), Wis. Adm. Code. These standards can be found at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>, keyword "stormwater technical standards". Any area where topsoil is exposed during the project should be immediately seeded and mulched to stabilize disturbed areas and prevent erosion.
17. Equipment Use. The equipment used in wetlands must be low ground weight equipment, as specified by the manufacturer specifications, to minimize the amount of disturbance to the wetland.
18. Wetland Protection. You shall not store any vegetation, material, or equipment in wetlands unless authorized to do so through an approved project design. The project will be constructed in a manner that will maintain wetland hydrology in the remaining wetland complex, if applicable.
19. Invasive Species. All project equipment shall be decontaminated for removal of invasive species prior to and after each use on the project site by following the most recent Department approved washing and disinfection protocols and Department approved best management practices to avoid the spread of invasive species as outlined in ch. NR 40, Wis. Adm. Code. These protocols and practices along with a factsheet for equipment operators can be found at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>, keyword "invasive species BMPs".
20. Federal and State Threatened and Endangered Species. WDNR-GP4-2023 does not affect the Department's responsibility to ensure that all authorizations comply with Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act, s. 29.604, Wis. Stats., and applicable state laws. No Department

authorization under this permit will be granted for projects found not to comply with these acts/laws. 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.

21. Special Concern Species. If the Wisconsin National Heritage Inventory lists a known special concern species to be present in the project area you will take reasonable action to prevent significant adverse impacts or to enhance the habitat for the species of concern.
22. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources. WDNR-GP4-2023 does not affect the Department's responsibility to ensure that all authorizations comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and s. 44.40, Wis. Stats. No Department authorization under this permit will be granted for projects found not to comply with these acts/laws. Information on the location and existence of historic resources can be obtained from the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Register of Historic Places. If cultural, archaeological, or historical resources are unearthed during activities authorized by this permit, work must be stopped immediately and the State Historic Preservation Officer must be contacted for further instruction.
23. Preventive Measures. Measures must be adopted to prevent potential pollutants from entering a wetland or waterbody. Construction materials and debris, including fuels, oil, and other liquid substances, will not be stored in the construction area in a manner that would allow them to enter a wetland or waterbody as a result of spillage, natural runoff, or flooding. **If a spill of any potential pollutant should occur, it is the responsibility of the permittee to remove such material, to minimize any contamination resulting from this spill, and to immediately notify the State Duty Officer at 1-800-943-0003.**
24. Suitable Fill Material. All fill authorized under this permit must consist of clean suitable soil, as defined by s. NR 500.03(214), Wis. Adm. Code, free from hazardous substances as defined by s. 289.01(11), Wis. Stats., and free from solid waste as defined by s. 289.01(33), Wis. Stats.
25. Standard for Coverage. Wetland impacts from the project will cause only minimal adverse environmental impacts as determined by the Department.
26. Transfers. Coverage under this permit is transferable to any person upon prior written approval of the transfer by the Department.
27. Reevaluation of Decision. The Department may suspend or revoke authorization of any previously authorized activity and may take enforcement action if the following occur:
  - a. The applicant fails to comply with the terms and conditions of WDNR-GP4-2023.
  - b. The information provided by the applicant in support of the permit application proves to have been false, incomplete, or inaccurate.

## SECTION 5. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Pursuant to s. NR 299.04(1), Wis. Adm. Code, the Department has reasonable assurance that projects that meet the eligibility criteria and conditions and are granted coverage under this general permit will meet all applicable water quality standards.
2. The Department has determined pursuant to wetland water quality standards under s. NR 103.03, Wis. Adm. Code, and s. 281.36(3g)(d), Wis. Stats., that projects that meet the eligibility criteria and conditions and are granted coverage under this general permit will only result in minimal adverse environmental effects.
3. The Department and the applicant have completed all procedural requirements, and projects that

meet the eligibility criteria and conditions and are granted coverage under this general permit will comply with all applicable requirements of WDNR-GP4-2023, s. 281.36(3g), Wis. Stats., and chs. NR 102,103,150, 299, and 300, Wis. Adm. Code.

## SECTION 7. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Department has authority under s. 281.36, Wis. Stats., to issue this general permit.
2. The Department has determined that issuance of this general permit is a prior compliance action under s. NR 150.20(3)(b), Wis. Adm. Code, based on the Environmental Analysis and Environmental Impact Statements prepared previously for statewide general permits. The Department has determined that on that basis we have complied with chs. NR 102 and 103, Wis. Adm. Code, and s. 1.11, Wis. Stats.
3. Issuance of coverage under this general permit constitutes federal Water Quality Certification under 33 U.S.C. s. 1341 if the project has not already been certified through a separate action.

## SECTION 8. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For the purposes of this general permit, you accept the following definitions:

1. "Area of special natural resource interest" means only the areas listed in s. 30.01 (1am), Wis. Stats, and identified by the Department in s. NR 1.05, Wis. Adm. Code.

**Note:** "Area of special natural resource interest" means any of the following:

- a. A State Natural Area designated or dedicated under ss. 23.27 to 23.29, Wis. Stats., and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.
  - b. A surface water identified as a trout stream by the Department in s. NR 1.02(7), Wis. Adm. Code, and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.
  - c. A surface water identified as an outstanding or exceptional resource water under s. 281.15, Wis. Stats., and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.
  - d. A body of water designated as a wild rice water under a written agreement between the Department and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.
  - e. A body of water in a wetland along Lake Michigan or Lake Superior that the - Department has identified as an ecologically significant coastal wetland and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.
  - f. A river that is included in the national wild and scenic rivers system or designated as a wild river under s. 30.26, Wis. Stats., and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.
  - g. The portion of a body of water that contains a sensitive area and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.
  - h. A unique and significant wetland specified by the Department in a special wetland inventory study or a special area management plan and shown on a map published on the Department's website.
  - i. An area that possesses significant scientific value as identified by the Department in s. NR 1.05, Wis. Adm. Code.
2. "Affect wetlands" includes direct impacts and secondary impacts to wetlands. Direct impacts to wetlands are temporary or permanent placement of dredged or fill material into the wetland and secondary impacts mean impacts associated with any adverse impact on wetland functions such as watershed hydrology (e.g. segmenting a wetland complex, severing a portion of a complex, reduction

in flood capacity, etc.).

3. "Boardwalk" is an elevated trail structure.
4. "Boreal rich fens" are a rare open peatland community of northern Wisconsin that are associated with glacial moraines, or less commonly, outwash landforms, in which the underlying substrate includes calcareous materials.
5. "Calcareous fens" occur mostly in southern Wisconsin, on sites that are fed by carbonate-enriched groundwater and are often associated and can intergrade with more abundant and widespread wetland communities such as southern sedge meadow, wet prairie, shrub-carr, emergent marsh, and southern tamarack swamp.
6. "Coastal plain marshes" are typically within the sandy beds or margins of extinct glacial lakes, on level or gently sloping glacial outwash sands, and, possibly in glacial tunnel channels.
7. "Complete application package" means a completed and signed application, the information specified in Section 2 of this permit and any other information which can reasonably be required from an applicant that the Department needs to make a decision.
8. "Emergent marshes containing wild rice" are typically emergent aquatic communities that have wild rice as a component. Substrates supporting wild rice usually consist of poorly- consolidated, semi-organic sediments. Water fertility is low to moderate, and a slow current is present.
9. "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources or WDNR.
10. "Fill material" has the meaning given in 33 CFR 323.2(e), and means material placed in wetlands where the material has the effect of replacing any portion of a wetland with dry land; or changing the bottom elevation of any wetland. Examples of such fill material include, but are not limited to: rock, sand, soil, clay, plastics, construction debris, wood chips, overburden from mining or other excavation activities, and materials used to create any structure or infrastructure in a wetland. The term fill material does not include trash or garbage.
11. "Floodplain" has the meaning in ch. NR 116, Wis. Adm. Code, which means the land which has been or may be hereafter covered by flood water during the regional flood.

**Note:** Information for floodplain regulations and ordinances is available online at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>, keywords "floodplain regulations".
12. "Great Lakes ridge and swale complexes" are associated closely with Great Lakes shorelines and are a series of narrow sandy ridges alternate with low swales, parallel to the lakeshore. The vegetation on the dry ridges can vary from open herbaceous or shrub communities on the semi-stabilized dunes closest to the shoreline, dry forests dominated by pines and oaks farther inland, and mixed mesophytic forests of northern hardwoods or hemlock hardwoods farthest from the shore.
13. "Interdunal wetlands" occupy wind-created hollows that intersect the water table within active dune fields along the Great Lakes shores. They may also occur where moving sand encroaches on nearby wetlands, surrounding and isolating all or portions of them.
14. "Invasive plants" are non-native or native plant species that invade natural plant communities and wild areas replacing desirable native vegetation. For a listing of common invasive plants found in Wisconsin visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>, keyword "invasive plants".
15. "Impacts to wetlands" includes temporary or permanent conversion of a wetland.
16. "Recreational facility" is defined as a facility that provides recreational opportunities.

17. "Single and complete project" means the total project proposed by the project proponent. For example, if construction of a residential development affects several different wetland areas, the cumulative total of all impacted areas is the basis for deciding the project's total wetland impact. For "phased" developments, each phase may constitute a single and complete project if it has independent utility and would accomplish its intended purpose whether or not other phases were constructed.
18. "Southern sphagnum bogs" are bogs that are located in the area located south of a horizontal line drawn across the state based on the routes of STH 16 and STH 21 west of Lake Winnebago and on USH 151 east of Lake Winnebago. They are typically composed of a carpet of living sphagnum moss growing over a layer of acidic peat. Sedges, forbs and/or the low shrubs of the heath family (Ericaceae) colonize the sphagnum moss mat.
19. "Stabilize" means the process of making a site steadfast or firm, minimizing soil movement by the use of practices such as mulching and seeding, sodding, landscaping, paving, graveling or other appropriate measures.
20. "Wetland" has the meaning in s. 23.32, Wis. Stats., and means an area where water is at, near or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic vegetation and which has soils indicative of wetland conditions.
21. "Wetland functional values" means the physical, chemical and biological process or attributes that occur in a wetland and the benefit society derives from certain functions as listed in ss. NR 103.03(1) and 350.003(17) Wis. Adm. Code.
22. "Wetland floristic integrity" means the overall condition of the wetland plant community as a direct indicator of wetland quality, typically calculated using floristic quality assessment (FQA) methodology.