

# Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)

Proposing a project that may impact a wetland? Installing or replacing tile, cleaning a ditch, filling a low spot, or excavating for a wildlife pond? You may be unintentionally impacting a wetland. Many wetlands do not contain standing water or are only saturated for part of the year, and can be difficult for landowners to identify.

The Minnesota Legislature in 1991 enacted the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA); the law regulates drainage and filling of wetlands.

Specifically the purpose of WCA is:

- ✦ to achieve no net loss in the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of Minnesota's existing wetlands;
- ✦ increase the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of Minnesota's wetlands by restoring or enhancing diminished or drained wetlands;
- ✦ avoid direct or indirect impacts from activities that destroy or diminish the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of wetlands;
- ✦ and replace wetland values where avoidance of activity is not feasible and prudent.



If you plan to work in or near a wetland, please contact the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District office prior to any drainage or filling activity.

Wetland benefits include:

- ✦ Wetlands reduce flooding.
- ✦ Wetlands improve water quality by filtering sediment and nutrients.
- ✦ Wetlands provide critical habitat for many animal and plant species.
- ✦ Wetlands provide opportunities for outdoor recreation.
- ✦ Wetlands allow infiltration of ground water.