

Clean Water Starts at Home

Tip #2: Wetlands – Avoid or Minimize Your Impact

Planning some landscaping, dumping, grading, or other changes in low grassy or soggy areas on your property? Contact the City or Coon Creek Watershed District (763-755-0975) to help determine if wetlands are on your property.

Some activities require a permit if they affect wetlands or other water bodies. So, you can be cited if found in violation of the law.

Why? There is potential for negative impact; maybe the wetland cannot hold as much water or filter stormwater runoff or soak in runoff because the ground has been compacted.

How do you know if it is a wetland? It can be difficult. Many wetlands are not very wet. In fact, they may only be soggy a couple weeks of the growing season and still be a wetland under the law.

Legal-Ease

Permits help us keep track of affected areas and, therefore, impacts on the balance of water storage and filtering capacity, among other things.

A permit is needed to excavate, drain, or fill any legal wetland. Why?

The 1991 MN Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) calls for a ‘no net loss’ of wetlands so wetland draining, filling, & excavation activities need to be avoided, or minimized and then offset by either wetland restoration or replacement (called “mitigation”).

Recommendations

- Contact the City or Coon Creek Watershed District: 763.755.0975 with any questions
- Remove “fill”- sod, brush, rock piles, trash, wood chips, grass clippings

For more info: <http://moourl.com/wetlandscwd>

Information provided by Coon Creek Watershed District: 763.755.0975 or email: info@cooncreekwd.org