Department of Environment and Local Government  
Source and Surface Water Management  

Wetland Guidelines

▪ All wetlands in New Brunswick are regulated and any alteration in or within 30 metres of a wetland requires a Watercourse and Wetland Alteration (WAWA) permit. On January 1st, 2020, the Department of Environment and Local Government (DELG) created an online Watercourse and Wetland Alteration (WAWA) Reference Map. The map is based on a composite of the most recent, publicly available information on wetland and watercourse locations but is to be used as a reference tool only. The WAWA Reference Map is also available on GeoNB.

▪ If a property owner of a single residence disagrees with the boundaries of a wetland, a request can be made to DELG to have a Wetland Biologist determine wetland presence and/or boundary of a wetland by using desktop analysis or a site visit if deemed necessary.

▪ Proponents of residential developments, as well as commercial and industrial projects may be required to obtain the services of a wetland consultant for wetland identification and delineation. Once reviewed by DELG, it will be used for the permitting process and will be added to the WAWA Reference Map during the annual update.

▪ Proponents are encouraged to avoid all impacts to wetlands. When avoidance is not possible, a valid Watercourse and Wetland Alteration (WAWA) Permit is required for all proposed alterations in or within 30 metres of a wetland.

▪ All permanent loss of wetland habitat requires wetland compensation at a 2:1 ratio.

▪ All enterprises, activities, projects, structures, works, or programs affecting two hectares or more of bog, marsh, swamp or other wetland must be submitted to the DELG for review in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation under the Clean Environment Act.

▪ Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs) are shown in yellow on the WAWA Reference Map. These PSWs are attributed special status because they are fulfilling important functions and values; therefore, activities in or within 30 metres of a PSW...
are highly restrictive. A list of the all the PSW areas as well as the criteria used to identify them can be found in the [List of Provincialy Significant Wetlands](#).

- Although existing activities are permitted to continue, only limited new activities will be permitted in or within 30 metres of Provincially Significant Wetlands. A WAWA Permit will be required for these new alterations. New alterations in or within 30 metres of Provincially Significant Wetlands are restricted to the list of permissible activities below, with a valid WAWA Permit.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New activities within Provincially Significant Wetlands with a Watercourse and Wetland Alteration Permit</th>
<th>New activities within 30 metres of Provincially Significant Wetlands with a Watercourse and Wetland Alteration Permit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Necessary Public Function: Activities that provide public function on a provincial scale such as public transportation projects, public infrastructure, linear pipeline or transmission corridors, and projects necessary for public safety;</td>
<td>All activities that are allowed to occur within the wetland (see adjacent column) plus those additional activities listed below:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Surveying that does not require heavy equipment, exposed soil or extensive site preparation;</td>
<td>• Erosion control activities and structures if there is an existing home, commercial enterprise or infrastructure that is at risk due to significant erosion;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Approved wetland restoration or rehabilitation activities and removal of control structures to enable dyked wetlands to revert to a natural wetland;</td>
<td>• New accessory buildings associated with an existing dwelling, provided that:</td>
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<td>• Education, research or habitat management (provided that they are temporary and there are no alterations);</td>
<td>o avoidance has been considered;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Temporary access roads to conduct a specific activity in winter (one season only), provided that:</td>
<td>o they are located on the existing footprint (i.e. unvegetated or landscaped area) associated with the dwelling;</td>
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<td>o there is no other practical access;</td>
<td>o no infilling or excavation is required;</td>
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<td>o the footprint is not subject to tidal</td>
<td>o soil disturbance is limited to post holes, auger holes, block etc.;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>o no woody vegetation is removed; and</td>
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<td>o it is maximum size of 25 square</td>
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</tbody>
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influence;
  o the ground is frozen;
  o no fill is used;
  o the roads are constructed of ice and/or snow; and
  o no vegetation is cut in the wetland or buffer.

- Permanent roads to access an upland (i.e. outside of the wetland and 30 metres buffer) portion of a property, provided that:
  o there is no other practical access;
  o there is no other upland area on the accessible portion of the property;
  o the length of access within the Provincially Significant Wetland and the 30 metre Provincially Significant Wetland buffer zone does not exceed 200 metres and a maximum width of 6 metres; and
  o wetland hydrology is maintained.

- Boardwalks for access, which meet the department’s Boardwalk Guidelines.

- Maintenance, repairs and replacement of existing structures provided that no modification is made to the size and footprint of the structure.

For additional information please contact the Department of Environment and Local Government:

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