

Checklist for Artificial Wetland Exemption Determination

The DNR defines an artificial wetland as a landscape feature where hydrophytic vegetation may be present as a result of human modifications to the landscape or hydrology and for which the department has no definitive evidence showing a prior wetland or stream history existed before August 1, 1991, but does not include any wetland area that serves as a fish spawning area or a passage to a fish spawning area, or a wetland created as a result of a wetland mitigation requirement.

The following attachments must be included with artificial wetland exemption determination submittals:

- A map showing the wetland(s) you would like the exemption review completed on
- A statement/narrative from a qualified professional explaining how the wetland meets the artificial wetland exemption criteria. This statement must include the following:
 - Summary of sources reviewed to document the lack of a wetland or stream history
 - Summary of the information provided by the sources that were reviewed
 - Evidence/documentation the wetland area(s) does not provide fish spawning habitat or provide passage to fish spawning habitat. This may require correspondence with the appropriate DNR Fisheries Biologist or other professionals qualified to make such a determination. Isolated ponds that dry up every year and have no connection to a stream, river, or lake generally do not provide fish spawning habitat. Ponds/ditches which flow to lakes, streams, or rivers may provide fish spawning habitat, or serve as passage to fish spawning habitat.
 - A narrative describing whether or not the landscape feature protects adjacent or downstream property or infrastructure from flooding, or is providing significant water quality protection to downstream waters or wetlands. If the landscape feature does provide significant protections to flooding or water quality, please describe how these functions will be maintained on the landscape.
- Historic Maps, including all of the following:
 - Original Land Survey (<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/SurveyNotes/SurveyNotesHome.html>)
 - Bordner Survey (<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/WebZ/SortedQuery?sessionid=01-54069-927345793&termsrch=%22Wisconsin+Land+Economic+Inventory+%28Bordner+Survey%29%22&indexsrch=is%3D&next=html/nfbrief.html&bad=error/badsearch.html&entitytoprecno=1&entitycurrecno=1&entitytempids=TRUE&dbgroup=EcoNatRes&numrecs=12&fmtclass=gallery>)
 - Historic USGS Topographic Maps from prior to August 1, 1991 (<https://store.usgs.gov/map-locator>)
 - Soil Survey Maps (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/surveylist/soils/survey/state/?stateId=WI>)
- Aerial Photographs
 - 1937/1938 era aerial photographs (<https://maps.sco.wisc.edu/WHAIFinder/>)
 - Pre construction aerial photograph showing artificial wetland area
 - Post construction aerial photograph showing artificial wetland area
- Site Photographs
 - Photographs must clearly show the wetland area(s) as well as the surrounding landscape

Additional documentation that may be useful:

- Previous construction plans
- Farm Service Agency Slides
- Previous wetland delineations
- Previous agency approvals
- Soil borings