

Wetland Delineations

The simple definition of a **wetland** is "land that is seasonally or permanently inundated with water." Wetlands, however, are more complicated and far more fascinating than that. They are an essential ecosystem that provides dozens of invaluable services to animals, plants, water, and people. Hundreds of plants and animals are specifically adapted to wetlands, and their rich diversity can perform _ such as breaking down pollutants and cleaning water. Having wetlands on your property can even increase its value, but the laws and regulations put in place to protect these areas can be difficult to navigate. Protecting you, the value of your land, and these vital habitats is paramount to Rock Leaf, and we will work with you and governmental agencies to benefit all parties involved.



What: Soils, plants and hydrology are key indicators used to map where the edge of a wetland lies; its transition into upland soil can be plotted to form a line is called the "delineation." This information is required by the Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), MN Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), Board of Soil and Water Resources (BSWR), Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), and other Local Government Units (LGUs).

When: When do these agencies require a Wetland Delineation? Typically, whenever a wetland could be impacted by projects involving land alterations. This could include dredging, filling, or draining a wetland while constructing buildings, roads, agricultural fields, etc.

When: When should the field portion of wetlands be done? It is crucial that, when in the field, wetland delineations are performed during the growing season. As anyone who lives in cold, snow-covered areas can attest, all three indicators (soil, hydrology, and especially plants) can be hard to discern and sometimes wholly absent when buried beneath the snow. For the southern portion of Minnesota, the growing season typically starts in early May and finishes around October.

Why: Why get a wetland delineation? The laws and regulations around wetlands can be overwhelming. Wetland Delineations allows the landowner and agencies to determine the best course of action to avoid and minimize impacts on wetlands. Wetland Delineations can also provide crucial advice for landowners that can help protect them when making decisions.

Our Experience and Expertise: Site Assessment and Wetland Delineations

We provide two levels of wetland consideration. Our first is the **Site Assessment**. This involves a walk-through of the land to create a map showing potential wetlands in your project area. We at Rock Leaf recommend doing a Site Assessment for large areas or areas where a comprehensive Wetland Delineation may not be needed. Site Assessments are faster, cheaper, and can provide information on places to focus on, saving the landowner time and money.



Rock Leaf also has experience providing complete **Wetland Delineations** in numerous areas, habitats, and situations. Recognized by BWSR as Certified Wetland Delineators and Delineators-in-Training, Kat Dickerson and Nate Gillett have the experience and knowledge to identify hydrophytic plants, hydric indicators in soil, and the presence of water near the surface. They have worked in undisturbed areas, mosaics, ditches, and agricultural fields. Rock Leaf also has the experience to help Landowners and Project Managers navigate the permits, regulations, and laws required by the state and the Federal Government.

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