

WETLANDS RECLASSIFICATION



Wetlands Resources:

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Wetlands Program:
<http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wetlands>

Land Owner's Guide to Wetlands:
http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/wetlands/docs/wl_Am_I_in_a_Wetland_2014.pdf

2017 Vermont Wetlands Rules:
<http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wetlands/jurisdictional/rules>

Wetlands Permit Information:
<http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wetlands/jurisdictional/permit-info>

LOCAL WETLANDS CONTACT

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What is the purpose of wetlands classification and reclassification?

- Wetlands classification provides protection of existing wetlands and wetland functions (ex: wildlife habitat, protect aquatic species, flood mitigation, filters pollutants, recreation, preserves aesthetic value etc..) through the establishment of a vegetative buffer zone in which Vermont Wetlands Rules and associated permitting apply
- **Wetlands reclassification** increases the required vegetative buffer zone to provide greater protection for existing wetlands

What is the difference between a Class I and Class II wetland designation?

- Class I wetlands require a minimum 100 ft vegetative buffer zone around the wetland
- Class II wetlands require a 50ft vegetative buffer zone
- The Vermont Wetlands Rules and permitting procedures apply in both Class I and II wetlands

What is the process of wetlands reclassification?

- Wetlands can be reclassified through a petition process outlined in the Vermont Wetland Rules. This process requires public/ land owner outreach including public hearings and a biological assessment demonstrating a wetland meets Class I wetland standards
- See *Section 7: Rulemaking Petitions* of the Vermont Wetland Rules for more information on this process