

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

ILLINOIS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

CONSTRUCTED WETLAND

Follow the operation and maintenance plan below to establish wetland plants and keep your constructed wetland functioning as intended:

- Establishing wetland plants using the Transplanting method:
 - When construction of the wetland is completed, keep the wetland dry (water control structure open) until after the basin is planted with emergent herbaceous macrophytes in the spring.
 - For the first year after planting, adjust the water control structure(s) so that the topsoil is kept moist to saturated with fresh water, up to a maximum of 1 inch of ponded water, for the first growing season or until 75% of the plants in the wetland pool area show new growth.
 - Then gradually increase the water level to the normal operating level as the wetland plants mature, always leaving a minimum of 4 to 6 inches of plant tops out of the water.
 - After the permanent pool water depth has been reached, the constructed wetland is ready for normal operation.
 - After the first growing season, if there is an area larger than 20% of the wetland without satisfactory vegetation, then that part of the wetland should be replanted.
- Establishing wetland plants using the Seeding method:
 - For the first year after seeding, adjust the water control structure(s) so that the topsoil is kept moist to saturated with fresh water, up to a maximum of 1 inch of ponded water.
 - Then gradually increase the water level to the normal operating level as the wetland plants mature, always leaving a minimum of 4 to 6 inches of plant tops out of the water.
 - After the permanent pool water depth has been reached, the constructed wetland is ready for normal operation.
 - After the first growing season, if there is an area larger than 20% of the wetland without satisfactory vegetation, contact NRCS for assistance with a revegetation plan.
- Establishing wetland plants using the Natural Regeneration method:
 - For the first year after construction, adjust the water control structure(s) so that the topsoil is kept moist to saturated with fresh water, up to a maximum of 1 inch of ponded water.
 - Then gradually increase the water level to the normal operating level as the wetland plants mature, always leaving a minimum of 4 to 6 inches of plant tops out of the water.
 - After the permanent pool water depth has been reached, the constructed wetland is ready for normal operation.
 - After the first growing season, if there is an area larger than 20% of the wetland without satisfactory vegetation, contact NRCS for assistance with a revegetation plan.
- Lock structures when not in use to prevent tampering and or vandalism.

- Inspect after significant storm events and at least twice a year to identify repair and maintenance needs.
- Inspect the downstream face of embankments annually. Wet areas, indicated by seeps, wetland plants or unusually vigorous vegetation the downstream face of an embankment could indicate a serious problem.
- Clear accumulated trash away from water control infrastructure, including pipe inlets, rock riprap, and vegetated spillways.
- Inspect valves for proper functioning. Guards must remain in place to keep structures operating as planned. Promptly repair or replace damaged or inoperable components.
- Repair any settlement or erosion that occurs along the pipe. If this problem persists, evaluate the pipe for leakage and erosion of the fill material into or along the pipe.
- Fill rills and gullies that occur on embankments and in the vegetated spillway. Reseed the filled areas. Repair erosion at pipe outlets promptly.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals from any embankments. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.
- Protect the structure from damage by farm equipment and livestock. Repair or replace damaged fences to keep livestock out of wetland, where applicable.
- Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative coverings on the embankment. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and mowing as needed. Time the first mowing after August 1 when most ground nesting birds have finished nesting. When applying fertilizer to vegetative cover, use caution to prevent degradation to water quality.
- Prevent woody vegetation from growing on or around the embankment, abutment, or vegetated spillway areas. Control tree and bush growth by hand cutting, mowing, or chemicals. Avoid damaging grass or aquatic vegetation with herbicide sprays.
- Maintain a vegetated buffer around the perimeter of the wetland to trap sediment. Follow the operation and maintenance instructions for the buffer.

Structure Summary

Structure ID	Elevation, ft		Boards in Control Structure (maximum)	
	Top of Box	Highest Board Level	Height, ft	Number of Boards

Additional Details:
