

REGULATORY MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program is to protect the nation's aquatic resources, while allowing reasonable development through fair, flexible and balanced permit decisions.



CHICAGO REGULATORY DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



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US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Chicago District



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The Corps' Regulatory Role

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch is tasked with preserving and protecting the physical, chemical and biological health of our nation's aquatic resources. The Chicago District operates under two legal authorities: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Protecting streams, lakes and wetlands is critical due to their role in providing habitat for fish and wildlife, as well as the extensive value they provide to the public.

Who Needs A Permit?

If you are placing fill material or a structure in a wetland or waterway you should coordinate with our office to determine if permits are necessary. A few examples of projects that will likely require a permit include:

- **Housing or commercial developments with wetlands on-site**
- **Installing a pier in a river or lake**
- **Constructing a road crossing through a stream**
- **Installing bank stabilization along a lake or stream**

These are just a few of many projects the Corps of Engineers reviews. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding our permitting process.

Jurisdictional Determinations

Some aquatic resources are regulated by the Corps of Engineers, while others are not. The Corps uses regulations, legal opinions, rule-making and guidance from our Headquarters to determine whether or not an aquatic resource is jurisdictional. Only the Corps of Engineers may determine whether an aquatic resource is jurisdictional. We encourage property owners to contact our office to see if your property contains areas regulated by our office.

Enforcement

The Corps' enforcement program serves to:

- **Ensure compliance with issued permits**
- **Restore jurisdictional sites affected by unauthorized work**
- **Deter any future un-permitted or non-compliance activities in Corps jurisdictional areas.**

Compensatory Mitigation

The loss of aquatic resources resulting from activities authorized by Corps permits are offset by compensatory mitigation. Compensatory wetland mitigation is the restoration or creation of an aquatic area in order to compensate for an aquatic resource that is destroyed in the process of land use development. Determination of mitigation requirements is decided after the permit application has been submitted to the Corps of Engineers for review.

Why are Wetlands Important?

Wetlands are a significant resource that provide several important functions. Wetlands:

- **Prevent floods by acting like a giant sponge that stores and slowly releases stormwater**
- **Replenish groundwater supplies**
- **Purify water by filtering out sediment, pollutants, and fertilizers**
- **Provide important wildlife habitat**
- **Provide recreational opportunities such as hiking, hunting, and bird watching**

