



# Going Green USACE SUSTAINABILITY



*Creating and maintaining conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony for generations to come.*



## Call before you fill!

Many landowners do not realize the importance of wetlands or that they may exist on their properties. Protecting streams, lakes and wetlands is critical due to their role in preventing flooding, improving water quality, and providing habitat for fish and wildlife, as well as the extensive recreational value they provide to the public. Anyone planning to place fill materials, excavate, dredge or use heavy equipment in a wetland, lake, stream, river or pond must ensure they have the proper permits before starting work. Impacting wetlands without proper approvals can lead to legal action, site restoration, civil and criminal fines and, possibly, imprisonment (Clean Water Act of 1972).

One of the biggest environmental concerns in northwest Indiana is flooding. Indiana has lost 85 percent of its wetlands and ranks fourth among the 50 states in proportion of wetland acreage lost. Wetlands help prevent flooding, acting like giant sponges by absorbing flood waters and slowly releasing them downstream.

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