

A person wearing a hat is sitting on a wooden dock that extends into a body of water. The dock is supported by several vertical posts. The person's reflection is visible in the calm water. In the foreground, there are tall reeds or grasses. On the left side, the dark silhouette of a tree is visible against the light sky. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.

The Public Trust in Wisconsin's Waterways

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Protected Public Interests:

- Commercial Navigation
- Boating and Recreation
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Natural Scenic Beauty
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Water Quality and Quantity

A blue sky with a calm sea and several birds flying. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

Typical projects that
require permits

Shoreline & Streambank Erosion Control



Boat Shelters



Boathouses



Bridges/Culverts



Ponds/Artificial Waterways



Structures



Dredging



Work in wetlands



Permit Process

- Exemptions
- General Permits
- Individual Permits

Exemptions - What They Are...

- EXEMPT activities do not require a permit nor do they require notification to the Department.
- They are NOT unregulated activities.

Exemptions—The Process

1. Is an exemption available?
2. Is the project located in a designated water?
3. Does the project meet the exemption standards?
4. Proceed with the project or submit an **Exemption Determination Request (EDR)**

General Permits—What They Are

- Permits for activities that meet specific standards and are located in specific areas.
- Must meet specific design, location & construction standards (Eligibility Criteria)

General Permits—Availability

- Available for most activities in most areas
- Some are not available in Areas of Special Natural Resource Interest or public rights features.

Individual Permits—What They Are

- Permits for activities that are more complex that do not meet the exemption or general permit standards.
- Individual Permits are available in all areas however some activities may be prohibited by statute or rule.

Individual Permits—The Process

1. A preliminary decision is made, then a public notice is issued.
2. The public has 30 days to comment and 20 days to request an informational hearing.
3. If a hearing is requested, applicant will need to publish the notice of hearing.
4. An informational hearing is held.
5. A permit decision is issued after the hearing and notice period.

Water permit applications

For some of our permits, submit applications and other forms to the DNR online. Get a WAMS ID, complete an application, sign and pay fees in a few steps. Track permits and know exactly where they are in the permitting process. Follow us as we add more permits to our online system. Applications not yet available online are linked below as a PDF.

- [Register](#) for a WAMS ID to access our SharePoint site to complete an online application.
- [Complete](#) an application, sign and pay fees online.*
- [View](#) public notices of the DNR's intention to authorize activity relating to water, including permits issued to the DNR.
- [Track](#) the status of Wisconsin water permits.
- [Watch](#) instructional training videos.



Bark Bay Slough - by Joanne Kline (Bayfield)

* = WAMS ID and password needed to log in.

Water supply **Storm water** **Agricultural livestock operations** **Wastewater** **Aquatic plant management** **Waterway and wetland**

General information about the application type	Application
Boat ramp	Begin GP or IP application*
Boathouse repair certification	Begin GP application*
Boat shelter	
Bridge	Begin IP application*
Bridge - Clear span over streams	Begin GP application*
Bridge - Municipal highway bridges, arches, culverts	Begin GP application*
Bridge - Utility structure	
Buoys	

Determine Permit Required

This is a text link version of our Intake/Outfall interactive question and answer module. If you are seeing this message, you currently have JavaScript disabled or are in compatibility mode while using Internet Explorer. This text version is here to help you understand if you need a permit from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for your Intake/Outfall project, and if so, which one. Please go through and answer each question. This will help you determine which permit you will need.

Question 1 :

Is the project located in a water body that is designated as an Area of Special Natural Resource Interest (ASNRI)?

If your answer is "Yes," go to [Question 3](#).

If your answer is "No," go to [Question 2](#).

If your answer is "I don't know," :

Please use the [designated waters tutorial](#) to determine if your project is located in a water body that is designated as an Area of Special Natural Resource Interest (ASNRI)

Question 2 :

If your project is not located in an ASNRI. You may qualify for an exemption. Will your project be located within a Public Rights Feature?

If your answer is "No," :

Your project meets the locational standards to be exempt from needing a permit.

Please review the [Intake or Outfall Structure Exemption Checklist](#) at exemptions to determine if your projects meets the other standards necessary to be exempt from

About us

- [Waterway contacts](#)
- [Why we regulate](#)

Permits from A to Z

- [Exemptions](#)
- [The Permit Process](#)
- [Alphabetical activity list](#)

Project groups

- [Construction](#)
- [Crossings](#)
- [Habitat](#)
- [Recreation](#)
- [Shoreline](#)
- [Water levels](#)

Related programs

- [Agri-Business and CAFOs](#)
- [Dam safety](#)
- [Floodplain management](#)
- [Shorelands](#)
- [Storm water](#)
- [Wastewater](#)
- [Wetlands](#)

Lakeshore vs. Streambank

- Different Standards & Eligibility Criteria
 - NR 328 Subchapter I – *Inland Lakes & Impoundments*
 - NR 328 Subchapter III – *Rivers & Streams*
- Different Application Packets



Lakeshore Erosion Control

Available General Permits:

- Biological
- Riprap/Vegetated Armoring
- Riprap Repair
- Riprap Replacement
- Replace Seawall w/ Riprap
- Seawall Replacement (Very Limited)

Streambank Erosion Control



Available General Permits:

- Biostabilization
- Vegetative Armoring (Integrated Bank Treatment)
- Replacement of Structure w/ Biological methods
- Replacement of Structure w/ Integrated Bank Treatment
- Repair of Riprap placed prior to Aug. 2007

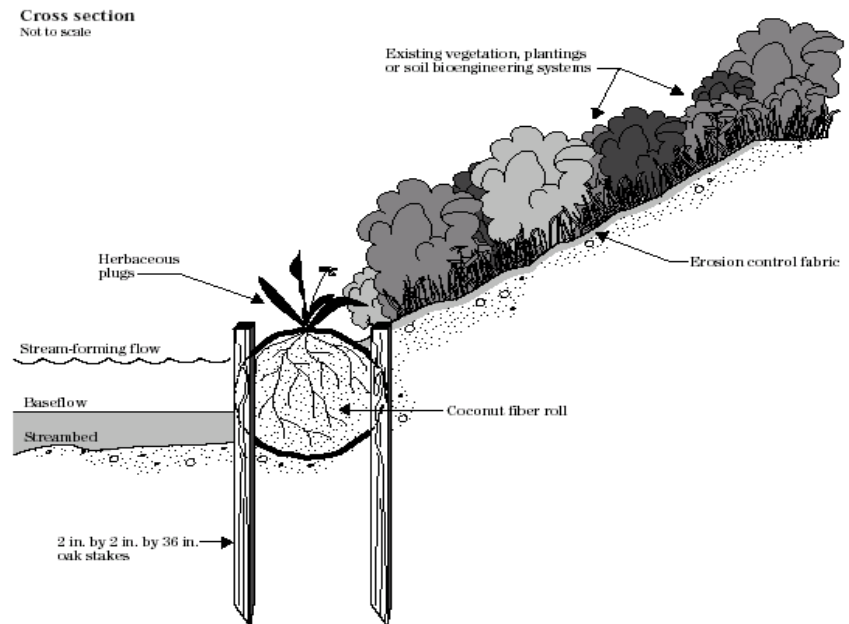


Biological Erosion Control (Biostabilization)

A structure that relies solely on biological materials



Figure 16-36 Coconut fiber roll details



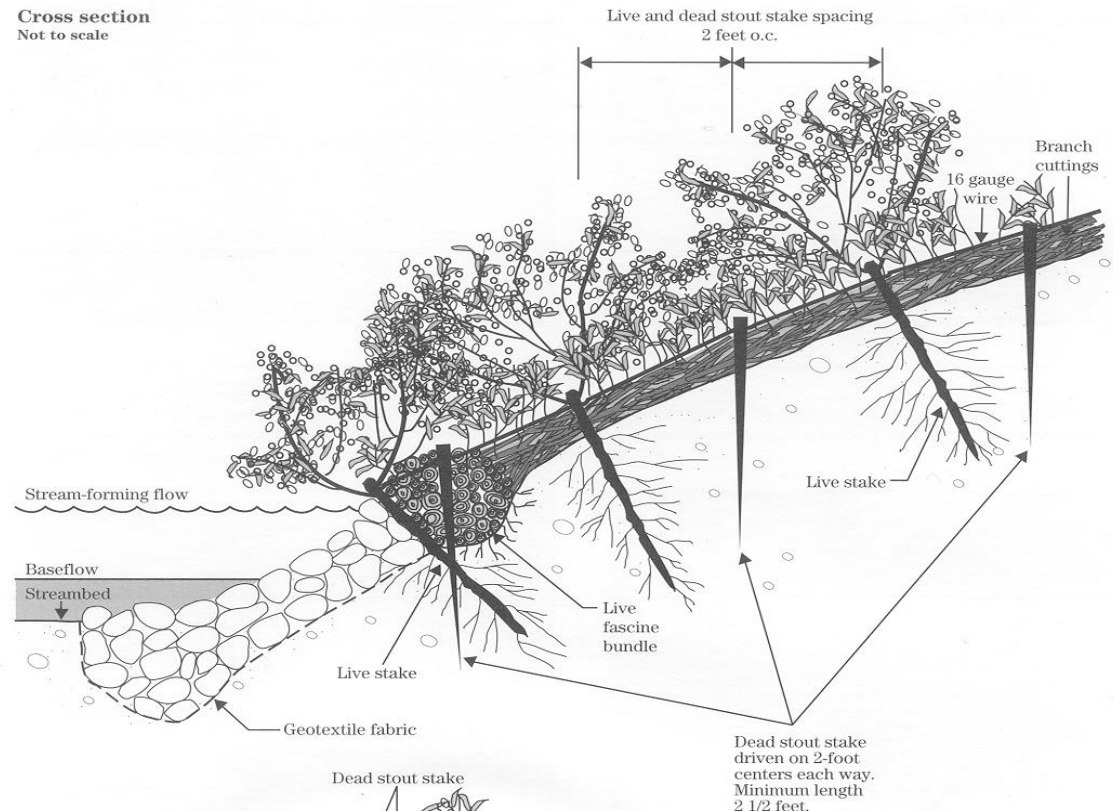
Constructed of living or organic materials that are biodegradable such as native plants, live stakes, branches, fiber rolls & mats, encapsulated soil lifts etc....

Integrated Bank Treatment

A structure that combines 2 separate treatments: structural treatment w/ inert materials for toe protection at the base of the bank, and biostabilization on the upper portion of the bank.

Figure 16-18 Brushmattress details

Cross section
Not to scale



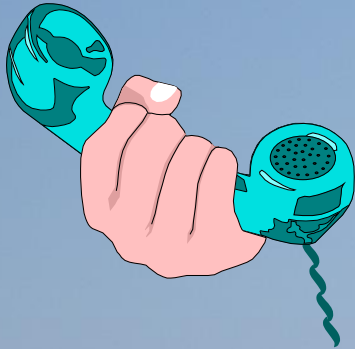
Riprap

Layers of rock including filter material placed on the bed & bank of a navigable waterway.



Key Considerations

- Communication



- Complete Applications



- Planning Early



Application Information Requirements

- **Application form.** A complete, signed application form “Water Resources Application for Project Permits (WRAPP)” (Form# 3500-53).
- **Site maps** which clearly illustrate the location and perimeter of the project site, and its relationship to nearby water resources (e.g. lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands), major landmarks and roads.
- **Photographs** that clearly show the existing project area. Remember that too much snow cover or vegetation may obscure important details. If possible, have another person stand near the project area for size reference.
- **Project plans** and specifications reflecting the General Permit Eligibility Standards as listed in the project-specific checklists.
- **Project Narrative** description of work that is proposed, from initial site preparation to installation and final site stabilization, detailing equipment used, erosion control measures, timing, etc. .
- **Permit fee**



Pier Planner

Exemptions:

- Flow through
- 6 feet wide with up to a 200 sq. ft. platform
- “Reasonable use”
- In exclusive riparian zone
- To the 3 foot water depth
- Does not obstruct navigation
- May not harm public interests

No requirement to remove every year

QUESTIONS?

www.dnr.wi.gov/permits/water