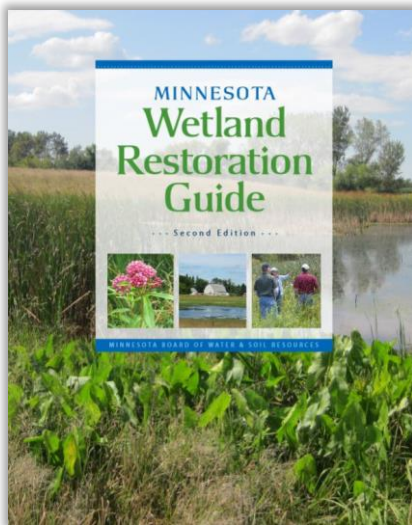




Just released: Minnesota Wetland Restoration Guide

December 2015 Snapshots

Wetlands are an important part of Minnesota's natural resources. Unfortunately, decades of wetland drainage and degradation have greatly diminished wetland resources and the functions they provide. Minnesota, like many other states is seeking to reverse that trend by restoring drained and altered wetlands to improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat and biodiversity, reduce erosion, provide flood damage reduction benefits, groundwater recharge, and increased recreational opportunities.



To help with these efforts, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) recently unveiled the new Minnesota Wetland Restoration Guide (Guide). The Guide is a comprehensive multidisciplinary document that offers sound engineering and ecological principals for restoring drained and altered wetlands across Minnesota's diverse landscape.

The Guide promotes the implementation of high quality wetland restorations that are both sustainable and functional. It is part of an ongoing collaborative effort by government officials, land and water managers, and non-government organizations to improve the science and decision making process when locating, planning, designing, constructing, and managing wetland restoration projects. The Guide provides sound, practical techniques and strategies for restoration that focus on replicating and replacing historic wetland functions and conditions

Written to assist professionals and nonprofessionals alike in planning, developing, and implementing wetland projects of all types and sizes, the Guide provides an interdisciplinary approach to restoration that considers all aspects of project planning and development. It addresses the needs of conservation projects as well as regulatory mitigation projects.

There are many technical, ecologic, and legal issues commonly encountered when attempting to restore wetlands, and the new publication provides strategies and practicable solutions to address them. It covers design plans for construction and vegetation establishment, sustainable restoration that fits landscape and land use, and emphasizes the importance of an integrated approach to restoration. The combination of engineering and ecological principals together makes a restoration project successful. The Guide's six major sections and appendices cover all the stages of a wetland restoration, from planning to assessment to monitoring and management.

The practice of wetland restoration is constantly evolving. The Minnesota Wetland Restoration Guide will evolve with it. Regular updates will be made as new research, restoration strategies, and practitioner information become available. The Wetland Restoration Guide lives online at <http://bwsr.state.mn.us/restoration/index.html>. Feedback is always welcome.