



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



Connecticut's Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Act

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DEEP Land & Water Resources Division



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

The Connecticut Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Act

- ▶ Connecticut law passed in 1972
- ▶ Found in General Statutes of Connecticut section 22a-36 through 22a-45



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The Connecticut Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Act

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- ▶ **Significant “Legislative Finding”**

“...by providing an orderly process to balance the need for the economic growth of the state and the use of its land with the need to protect its environment and ecology in order to forever guarantee to the people of the state, the safety of such natural resources...”



The Connecticut Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Act

► Sec. 22a-42

“To carry out and effectuate the purposes and policies of sections 22a-36 to 22a-45a, inclusive, it is hereby declared to be the public policy of the state to require **municipal** regulation of activities affecting the wetlands and watercourses within the territorial limits of the various municipalities or districts.”



The Connecticut Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Act

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- ▶ **Exception: DEEP regulates activities conducted by state agencies, departments or instrumentalities of the state, and activities conducted on land owned or controlled by the state.**



The Connecticut Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Act

► Sec. 22a-42

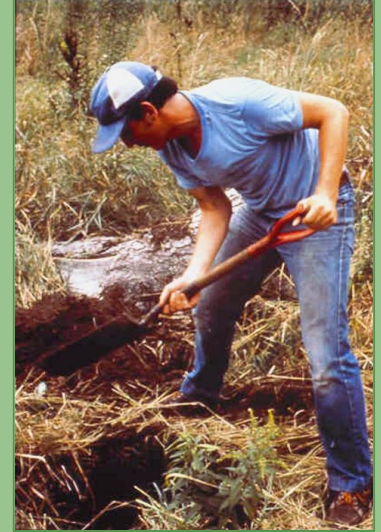
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What is an inland wetland?

LAND, consisting of soil types designated as:

- poorly drained
- very poorly drained
- alluvial
- floodplain



Based on soil taxonomy, National Cooperative Soils Survey, NRCS

Inland wetlands that have been subject to prior disturbances from grading, draining and/or filling may still meet the definition



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What is a watercourse?

ivers, streams, brooks, waterways, lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, bogs and all other bodies of water, natural or artificial, vernal or intermittent, public or private



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What is a watercourse?

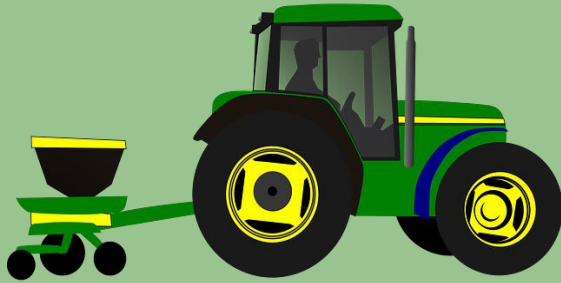
rivers, streams, brooks, waterways, lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, bogs and all other bodies of water, natural or artificial, vernal or **intermittent**, public or private

Additional criteria for intermittent



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What is a regulated activity?



What is a regulated activity?

“Any operation within or **use of** a wetland or watercourse involving removal or deposition of material, or any obstruction, construction, alteration or pollution, of such wetlands or watercourses, but shall not include the specified activities in section 22a-40;”

- ▶ Activities occurring outside of a wetland or watercourse may be subject to regulation - **Upland Review Area**



What is a regulated activity?

“Any operation within or use of a wetland or watercourse involving removal or deposition of material, or any obstruction, construction, alteration or pollution, of such wetlands or watercourses, but shall not include the specified activities in section 22a-40;”

- ▶ Certain activities are considered exempt from permit requirements



IWWA Reference to P&Z

Municipal Inland Wetlands Agency:

- Establishing the agency - authorize an existing board or commission
- Exemptions - uses incidental to the enjoyment and maintenance of residential property
- Public hearings & date of receipt – follow sec. 8-7d (but not quite)
- Conducting a regulated activity – zoning compliance required (subdivision approval, variance, etc.)
- Permit lifespan – aligned for activities that also require approval under chapter 124, 124b, 126 or 126a

DEEP:

- General permit - any person or municipality seeking to undertake a regulated activity under the authority of the general permit, shall file with the commissioner a Request for Authorization Form
- File copy - with the various municipal land use commissions before activity start date



Municipal Inland Wetlands Agency Comprehensive Training Program

www.ct.gov/deep/inlandwetlands

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The Municipal Inland Wetlands Agency Comprehensive Training Program

This free, online training program was custom built to allow municipal inland wetlands agencies and their staff to carry out their regulatory and training duties under the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA).

The program consists of 8 modules and is designed with text and video content, interactive activities, and module assessments to allow you to review and digest the material at your own pace. The DEEP will issue a Certificate of Achievement upon successful completion of the program.

It is strongly recommended that all new municipal inland wetlands agency members and staff complete the training. Veteran members and staff can benefit from taking the course as it provides a good review of fundamental subject matter.

This online training program fulfills the requirement pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) [section 22a-42\(d\)](#) that at least one member of the inland wetlands agency or staff of the agency be a person who has completed the comprehensive training program. This course also fulfills the training requirement for duly authorized agents pursuant to CGS [section 22a-42a\(c\)\(2\)](#).

The training program is not limited to municipal officials, and DEEP encourages participation by anyone interested in learning about the IWWA, the municipal inland wetlands agency permitting process, the functions and values of inland wetlands and watercourses, habitat enhancement and restoration techniques, and more!

[REGISTRATION](#)

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Training / CT DEEP Municipal Inland Wetlands Agency Comprehensive Training Program

CT DEEP Municipal Inland Wetlands Agency Comprehensive Training Program

Who should take this course: Municipal inland wetlands agency members & staff; anyone interested in learning about Connecticut's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA), the municipal inland wetlands agency permitting process, and the functions and values of inland wetland and watercourse resources.



Format: Online, at your own pace, 8 modules with text and video content, interactive activities, and module assessments.

Estimated time to complete: 8 hours (Course must be completed within 60 days)

Completion reward: Certificate of Achievement issued by CT DEEP

Cost: Free

Description: This online training program allows municipal inland wetlands agencies and their staff to meet the regulatory and training requirements of the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA). This program instructs and guides agency members and staff on (1) the law they are implementing and enforcing and (2) the resources they are charged with protecting. Municipal inland wetlands agencies have the daunting task of balancing support for their community's economy with the need to protect and restore inland wetland and watercourse resources. This course assists agencies with their responsibilities by examining key sections of the IWWA, important procedures and critical legal concepts for conducting agency business, stream crossing guidelines, habitat enhancement and restoration techniques, maps and site plans, and more! It is strongly recommended that all new municipal inland wetlands agency members and staff complete this training program. Veteran members and staff can benefit from taking the course as it provides a good review of fundamental subject matter.

[REGISTER HERE](#) *Look for Municipal Inland Wetlands Agency Training in the list of courses*

For questions regarding course content, please email darcywinther@ct.gov. In the email subject line, please indicate: *IW Online Course Content Question*.

Technical support: jaan.madden-hennessey@uconn.edu

www.clear.uconn.edu/training



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Thank You

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