



VLA WMO BUFFER REQUIREMENTS: UPDATED 2016

The following chart indicates the buffer requirements as they are listed in VLA WMO's Water Policy. In 2016, together with its cities, townships, and stakeholders, VLA WMO updated its water policy according to the 2017-2026 Comprehensive Water Management Plan. With this update, regulations for developments and re-developments near wetlands are adjusted to the new measurements. Cities and Townships are encouraged to refer to these measurements for permitting purposes and for convenience when updating their own comprehensive water plans. For either the old or new policy documents, contact VLA WMO or visit www.vlawmo.org.

Pre-2016

For reference to the previous regulations, see the 2009 VLA WMO Water Policy, p. 30.

At the time of VLA WMO's updated water policy, the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) had updated the classifications of the Minnesota Wetland Function Assessment. As a Water Management Organization (WMO), VLA WMO refers to this assessment as guidance in protecting local water resources.

What do the classifications mean?

Wetland classifications are based on vegetative diversity and wetland type. Generally, "manage 3" classification consists of low-quality wetlands with a high degree of human impact. "Manage 1" consists of higher diversity and overall health, with low sedimentation and contaminants. Preserve classifications are generally the largest, healthiest, and most valuable wetlands for groundwater conservation. For more on these classifications, see the BWSR website at: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/mnram/>.

Post-2016

VLA WMO 2016 Water Policy p. 25

1. Any activity for which a permit is required under this Wetland Policy and the Storm Water Management Policy that increases the imperviousness of the subject parcel must provide for buffer adjacent to each wetland and public waters wetland. Buffer must be provided on that part of the wetland edge that is down gradient from the activity or construction and around each wetland that will be disturbed.
2. Buffer width will be determined as presented in Table 4-1:

Management Class	Base Buffer Width, feet	Minimum Applied Buffer Width, feet
Manage 3	20	16
Manage 2	30	24
Manage 1	40	34
Preserve	75	67