

## **Wetland Regulations**

### **THE CITIZENS OF NORTHWEST WISCONSIN REQUEST**

The State of Wisconsin amend the existing general permit eligibility criteria, to allow local governing bodies (with Lake Superior Clay Plain wetlands) the ability to impact wetlands on pre-existing industrial land to be sold and/or developed at a later date.

### **BACKGROUND**

Natural resources are critical to the well-being of Ashland's quality of life. These resources include Lake Superior, numerous rivers and backwaters, and unique Lake Superior Clay Plain wetlands. These wetlands comprise more than 60% of undeveloped lands in the City of Ashland.

Within the City of Ashland's Industrial Park established in 1972, 34 acres of parcels zoned for industrial use are currently limited for development due to quantities of wetlands varying in size and quality. Marketing parcels of land to prospective developers that contain or that may only be accessed through wetlands has proven to be a significant challenge. The challenge is intensified through time-consuming state wetland regulatory processes, where the end result of obtaining a permit is unknown and/or cost prohibitive. In order for the Industrial Park to thrive, growth and economic development is imperative.

The WI-DNR in 2012 issued a statewide general permit for wetland discharges for development that occurs on industrial, commercial or residential land. This permit is valid for 5 years (2017) and allows applicants to apply for coverage under the permit for wetland impacts up to 10,000 square feet if all eligibility criteria and conditions are met. While this permit will assist conceptual projects, it does not increase the ability of the City to meet market demands for shovel-ready buildable lots for future industrial development.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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