

VERMONT WETLAND PERMITTED LOSSES AND GAINS 2016

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The goal of the Vermont Wetlands Program is to have no net loss of wetland function, value or acreage. For state fiscal year 2016 (SFY: July 2015 – June 2016) the program issued 70 permits for encroachments into wetlands or their buffer zones. Permit holders are required to report on when construction has completed. Using these reports the Program is able to quantify actual wetland losses and gains for SFY2016 for Class I and II wetlands. Since permits are not needed for Class III wetlands, there is no tracking of Class III wetland loss or gain.

In SFY2016 we received project completion reports for 34 permitted projects. For those projects, less than an acre of Class II wetland was filled. There was no loss of Class I wetland. No completed projects required wetland creation or restoration.

SFY 2016:

0.7 acres of wetland filled

4.4 acres of wetland
enhanced or conserved.

There were requirements for enhancement or conservation of wetland which was far greater than the amount of permitted wetland loss. Wetland enhancement measures are where function or value of a wetland is increased by improving the condition of a degraded wetland area. Enhancement usually involves passive no-

management zones and is most commonly applied to wet meadow, agricultural land or other similar managed wetland or buffer zone and in some cases involves planting saplings. Conservation measures involve easements of threatened wetland areas which may have also been impaired in the past. Four acres of wetland were conserved and 0.4 acres were enhanced through permit requirements.

Out of the eleven counties in Vermont, six had no permitted wetland loss and three received more acres of enhancement or conservation than loss. Rutland, Grand Isle, Caledonia and Chittenden Counties lost wetland in the SFY2016 time period. Chittenden lost nearly half an acre, the majority of total permitted wetland loss in

2016. In future reports we will break impact and improvement numbers by watershed.

County	Square Feet Lost	Square Feet Enhanced/Conserved
Addison	2197	14520
Bennington	0	0
Caledonia	2642	0
Chittenden	21097	0
Essex	0	0
Franklin	0	0
Grand Isle	1244	0
Lamoille	0	0
Orange	0	3000
Rutland	935	0
Washington	0	174240
Windsor	3190	0

These numbers do not account for the loss of wetland due to lack of state jurisdiction, or wetland fill violations, or permits which were completed without yet reporting. These numbers also do not account for the passive or voluntary restoration efforts taking place throughout the state which are not associated with a wetlands permit.