

Waterlines Express - News from DNR Division of Water

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Thank you for subscribing to the Indiana DNR Division of Water's e-mail newsletter. Your interest will help the DOW's mission to protect, enhance, preserve, and wisely use water resources for the benefit of Indiana's citizens through professional leadership, management, and education.

Indiana Public Freshwater Lakes - What is shoreline class and how is it used?

Indiana's Lake Preservation Act (IC 14-26-2) safeguards the natural resources and scenic beauty of public freshwater lakes as a public right. Shoreline additions like seawalls and underwater beaches can compromise this natural beauty, defined as the natural condition of the environment without constructed additions or alterations.

To balance preservation and development, shorelines are categorized based on existing lawful alterations and the presence of emergent wetland vegetation. These classifications, evaluated during permit reviews, dictate the approved materials for seawalls and the permissible size of underwater beaches.

The four shoreline classifications, from most to least protected, are:

1. Significant Wetland
2. Natural Shoreline
3. Area of Special Concern
4. Developed Area

To ensure accurate assessments, the Division of Water's Technical Services Section conducts on-site lake inspections beginning in spring when emergent vegetation becomes visible. These inspections are crucial in reviewing permit applications for seawalls and underwater beaches.



1. Significant Wetland



2. Natural Shoreline



3. Area of Special Concern



4. Developed Area

Upcoming Division of Water Events

Visit us at the Indiana State Fair through August 18. The Natural Resources Building on the north side of the fairgrounds offers exhibits and demonstrations from many Indiana DNR divisions. It's air-conditioned and has public restrooms. There's also a fish display and a butterfly garden. DNR employees staff an info booth to answer questions.

The Mother Mercantile store sells DNR, State Park, and outdoor-themed merchandise. Behind the building is the [DNR Fishin' Pond](#), where children 5-17 can try their hand at fishing (registration required). Demonstrations and lectures - including the popular raptor show - take place at the covered amphitheater.

Indiana Flooding and Flood Tools Awareness Workshops

Monday, Aug. 19, 9 a.m.-noon, Plainfield; Made @ Plainfield, 1610 Reeves Road, Plainfield, 46168

Wednesday, Aug. 28, 9 a.m.-noon, Evansville; American Red Cross, 29 S Stockwell Road

Thursday, Sept. 12, Michigan City (part of the INAFSM annual conference)

For more information see dnr.IN.gov/water/events-and-training.

Presented by the Indiana Silver Jackets federal and state-level partners include the Indiana DNR, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, Federal Emergency Management Association, National Weather Service, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Polis Center at IU Indianapolis, and more.

TARGET AUDIENCE: New and current personnel interested in learning about current tools and technology available for flood risk management in Indiana. Appropriate for county commissioners, county surveyors, emergency and floodplain managers, and soil and water conservation personnel.

This three-hour workshop will address the common types and causes of flooding in Indiana, as well as flood-related regulations, mitigation best practices, and climate change impacts. A significant focus of this meeting will be on the flood risk reduction tools available, including flood risk management (FRM) data and tools, stream and lake gauges; flood inundation maps (FIMs); available data sources (i.e., Indiana Floodplain Information Portal); and partner agency FRM programs.

Save the Date – Division of Water Open House

The public is invited to join the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Water staff in a discussion about Indiana's vital water resources and their impact on private citizens on Wednesday, Sept. 4, in Alexandria.

Representatives from the Division of Water will be available to share information about their work in floodplain management, floodplain mapping, water resource assessment, and availability, water rights & use, dam & levee safety, watershed stewardship, floodway and lake permits, and compliance.

The free event, which will offer open public question and answer opportunities, will be held at the Emery Lee Building from 5-7 p.m. Attendees can arrive any time during that span.

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