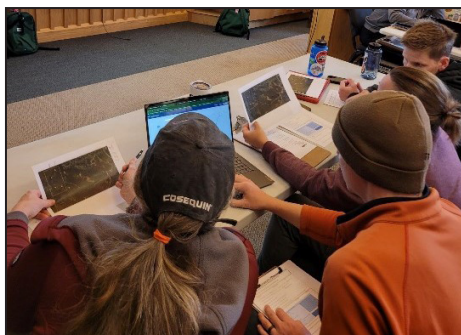


Wetland training program certifies 660+ professionals in first 5 years



A training program geared toward professionals who restore and maintain Minnesota's wetlands has helped more than 660 people earn professional certifications over the past five years.

Administered by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), the Minnesota Wetland Professional Certification Program (MWPCP) aims to provide relevant, accessible and affordable training to public- and private-sector wetland professionals.

Training opportunities are offered both in person and online. Participants include local government staff, Tribal staff, private consultants and state and federal employees.

"When we offer trainings on technical topics such as wetland delineation and classification, soils, vegetation identification and functional assessment, an in-person format can be especially helpful," said Ben Meyer, a BWSR wetland specialist who helps coordinate the MWPCP. "Getting people out into the field makes a big difference with certain topics. We really strive to hold training courses in all areas of the state to keep things accessible to everyone."

To become a Certified Minnesota Wetland Professional (CMWP) through the MWPCP, individuals

attend training courses to prepare for an exam. Exams are offered several times a year. Certification indicates that an individual has a fundamental understanding of the basic technical methods, rules, policies and guidance associated with wetland regulations and delineation in Minnesota, with an emphasis on administering the state's Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Initial certification is valid for three years and can be retained via continuing education courses.

"Having that consistent baseline knowledge across different job sectors and roles allows wetland professionals to work more efficiently and effectively," Meyer said.

In 2025, 17 instructors led 11 training courses on topics including soils on the landscape, wetland delineation methods, plant identification and monitoring for consultants. Nearly 800 professionals attended MWPCP training courses last year. Ninety-five people passed certification-related exams. Twenty-three received full professional certification.

The MWPCP replaced the Wetland Delineator Certification Program (WDCP), which began in 2002. Functioning as a partnership between the University of Minnesota and BWSR, the WDCP trained thousands

Wetland professionals attended MWPCP trainings at Hartley Nature Center in Duluth in October 2025 (left), at Northland Arboretum in Brainerd in April (center), and at a Minnesota Department of Transportation training center in St. Cloud in April (right). Photo Credits: BWSR

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— Ben Meyer, BWSR wetland specialist



and certified hundreds in wetland delineation. The University of Minnesota transferred the program to BWSR in 2020 because the agency had the capacity and the interest in providing regulatory and technical wetland training across the state.

Professionals have been consistently certified throughout the life of the program, but the first several years of BWSR's oversight saw a spike in participation. During the first two years of

the revamped program, more than [150 wetland professionals received certification](#). Meyer said the number of new participants has leveled in the past year or so, because most wetland professionals in the state are already involved with the program to some degree.

As more wetland professionals engage with the program, MWPCP program staff is focusing on a long-term vision. The BWSR wetland staff is working on a strategic

plan for the program to help ensure efficient and effective outcomes for both trainers and participants. In April, MWPCP trainees were invited to participate in a stakeholder survey to help inform the strategic plan. Meyer said program staff are reviewing those results and integrating the feedback into the strategic plan and trainings scheduled for later this year.

This year's MWPCP course offerings include a range of topics such as WCA 101, wetland

delineation and regulation, plant identification, soils, the Minnesota Wetland Rapid Functional Assessment Method, the hydrogeomorphic method for classifying wetlands, and emerging wetland restoration topics and trends.

Find details, including upcoming courses and FAQs, on the [MWPCP webpage](#).

BWSR staff members write and produce Snapshots, a monthly newsletter highlighting the work of the agency and its partners.