

## MITIGATION & MONITORING PLAN CHECKLIST

The discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the State, as defined in Chapter 6111 of the Ohio Revised Code, is regulated under Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act and Ohio's Isolated Wetland laws (ORC §§ 6111.020 – 024).

**Wetland mitigation/monitoring plans and annual monitoring reports must be prepared in accordance with the “INTEGRATED WETLAND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM. Part 6: Standardized Monitoring Protocols and Performance Standards for Wetland Creation, Enhancement and Restoration, Version 1.0 Ohio EPA Technical Report WET/2004-6.”**

This report, as well as others that may be useful in the development/implementation of mitigation and monitoring plans, is available at

[http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/wetlands/WetlandEcologySection\\_reports.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/wetlands/WetlandEcologySection_reports.aspx)

Additional valuable information regarding mitigation can be found at

<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/401/mitigation.aspx>

As guidance for what should be in a mitigation and monitoring plan, the following checklist has been developed in accordance with state and federal regulations (OAC Rule 3745-1-54; 33 CFR 332).

At a minimum, all of the information listed below must be included in the plan in order for it to be approved by Ohio EPA; however the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) may require additional information in mitigation and monitoring plans that is not listed below. The applicant should work with the Corps to ensure that all of the required information is provided (not applicable for “isolated” wetlands, i.e., wetlands that are not under the jurisdictional authority of the Corps).

---

*Mitigation plans should act as stand-alone documents and must contain all of the information listed below. Even though some of the required information may be present in the application, such items should be duplicated and included in the mitigation & monitoring plan as well.*

### **Plan Views and Drawings**

**(To scale; showing mitigation property boundaries and a north arrow)**

- Road map
- USGS map
- NWI map
- NRCS County Soil map (identify as hydric, non-hydric w/ incl., or non-hydric)
- Recent aerial photography map showing boundary of mitigation property
- Map showing both location of mitigation site and impact site.

- Map of the proposed mitigation site showing the location of existing aquatic resources, vegetation communities, boundary of preservation property, and areas presently dominated by invasive species.
- Plan views showing expected approximate limits of cut and fill areas, limits of vegetation removal, ditch plug areas, tile cutoff areas, berm locations, etc.
- Conceptual plan view of boundaries showing existing aquatic resources, and limits of proposed enhanced, restored, created, and preserved aquatic resources, existing and proposed vegetation types, proposed planting areas, and proposed habitat features.
- Conceptual cross section of mitigation and buffer areas showing existing land surface, proposed land surface, expected maximum and normal water depths, natural channel design measurements.
- For streams, also provide conceptual longitudinal profile of existing and proposed land surface

**Information and Discussions:**

- Discuss the overall objectives of the mitigation plan in terms of how it meets applicable Ohio laws and rules and in comparison to the overall functions lost at the impact site.
- Description of activities planned to occur at each mitigation area including a timeline.
- Township, county, and Hydrologic Unit Code for impact and mitigation site.
- Delineation of existing aquatic resources present on mitigation site including photographs of each resource and existing buffer areas, and Corps approval letter.
- Assessments of undesignated aquatic resources on the site (HHEI, ORAM, etc.)
- Names, mailing and email addresses, phone numbers for responsible parties including: landowners, developers, consultants, easement holders, and engineers, etc.
- Discuss existing easements/ownership rights on the property that may preclude it as an acceptable mitigation site such as mining rights, utility easements, etc.
- Information on reliability of source of water/water budget for the mitigation area. Identify sources of water for mitigation including current and proposed watershed size. Discuss manipulation of hydrology required for construction of the mitigation.
- Describe the extent to which productive topsoil will be provided or amended as the topmost layer in floodplain restoration or wetland creation/restoration areas.
- Planting plan including size of stock to be planted, planting rates, list of species to be planted including scientific name and common name, and indicator status. Plantings may not consist of exotic, hybrid, or invasive or non-native species. Where plantings are not planned, provide rationale.
- Invasive species control plan.
- Discuss proposed quantitative performance criteria.