

**Department of Environment and Local Government  
Source and Surface Water Management Branch**

**Boardwalk Construction Guidelines**

The following guidelines apply to boardwalks constructed in or within 30 metres of a wetland in New Brunswick. This document is intended to promote environmentally responsible and sustainable boardwalk construction within wetland areas.

These guidelines may be periodically updated by the Department of Environment and Local Government (DELG). It is the proponent's responsibility to ensure they have acquired the latest version from the Regional office or [DELG website](#).

**A Watercourse and Wetland Alteration (WAWA) permit for the proposed structure must be obtained prior to the commencement of the project.** Applications for WAWA permits can be submitted online at the following link: <https://www.elgegl.gnb.ca/WAWAG/en/Home/Site>

**Construction Guidelines**

- Grubbing or complete removal of vegetation must not be carried out in or within 30 metres of a wetland or watercourse.
- Cutting of vegetation for construction must be limited to the width of the boardwalk.
- No fill is to be placed in or within 30 metres of a wetland or watercourse.
- Soil disturbance in or within 30 metres of a wetland or watercourse during the construction must be limited to the excavation/auguring of post holes.
- Materials excavated as described above must be removed and disposed of outside regulated areas, in a manner acceptable to DELG.
- Machinery may be permitted in or within 30 metres of the wetland or watercourse during the construction process provided the following conditions can be met:
  - The work is completed under frozen conditions with the machinery tracking only within the footprint of the proposed structure or the work is completed with the use of swamp mats, brush mats, or similar devices/products designed to minimize rutting in wetlands.
  - The machinery is stationed on and operated from the structure's deck.

- Gas powered generators used during construction in or within 30 metres of the wetland or watercourse must always remain secured to the constructed portions of the boardwalk.
- All power tools must be maintained in good working order and be free of fuel, oil, or other lubricant leaks, and must not be refuelled, lubricated, or maintained in or within 30 metres of a wetland or watercourse.
- Adequate emergency spill kit materials, including absorbent pads, must be located on-site in a readily available location should a spill occur in or within 30 metres of a wetland or watercourse.
- All treated timbers used shall be treated in accordance with the Wood Preservation Standards published by Wood Preservation Canada and shall be air dried for the length of time specified by the manufacturer for safe use in, over, or near an aquatic environment. Timber used in, over, or near an aquatic environment shall not be treated with creosote.
- All support pillars, stringers, decking, toe plate, hand rail supports, and hand rails must be constructed of wood unless engineered drawings are provided that require other materials and these materials are approved by DELG.
- All clamps, brackets and fastening devices must be constructed of aluminum galvanized metal or similar corrosion resistant materials.
- The maximum width of the boardwalk deck must be 1.8 metres. (A greater width for public access may be considered).
- The underside of the stringers of the boardwalk/viewing platform(s) must be at least one metre in height above the natural grade of the wetland and its 30 metre buffer or one metre above the highest annual water level, whichever is greater.
- The boardwalk must be constructed in such a manner as to allow water to freely drain off the deck (walking surface).
- Boardwalks must be designed in such a manner that the alignment of the boardwalk is perpendicular to the wave sets in any construction areas that may be susceptible to wave action or storms.
- Viewing platforms must not exceed 25 square metres in area and must be spaced at least 50 metres apart from each other.
- Under the NB *Clean Water Act* the proponent applying for the permit to construct any boardwalk in a regulated area is responsible for maintaining the structure in good repair and any necessary decommissioning activities that may be required.
- Along with the above construction guidelines, all boardwalks must be constructed in compliance with the New Brunswick's *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, Regulation 91-191.

Other authorizations may be required from other agencies and other *Acts* and *Regulations* may be applicable to the project.

Please note that boardwalks constructed in or within 30 metres of Provincially Significant Wetlands may require consultation with DELG's Environmental Impact Assessment Branch to determine if an Environmental Impact Assessment Registration is required under Regulation 87-83 of the *Clean Environment Act*.

DELG assumes no responsibility for the construction of any boardwalk, injury to individuals, or the damage, misuse, dismantling, or destruction, of boardwalks constructed under these guidelines, by individuals or naturally occurring events.

For additional information please contact the Department of Environment and Local Government:

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