

Other things you should know:

- ➔ The landowner owns and controls access to the land, including for quiet enjoyment, recreational activities and may sell or lease land enrolled in WRP.
- ➔ Landowners may make compatible use requests throughout the life of the easement or agreement.
- ➔ Landowners give NRCS staff access to the easement to perform routine inspections and maintenance.
- ➔ Easement survey and legal costs are covered by NRCS and are at no expense to the landowner.



Contact us

www.de.nrcs.usda.gov



- **Dover Field Office**
Serving Kent County
800 Bay Rd., Dover, DE 19904
302-741-2600 ext. 3

- **Georgetown Field Office**
Serving Sussex County
21315 Berlin Rd., Unit 3, Georgetown, DE 19947
302-856-3990 ext. 3

- **Newark Field Office**
Serving New Castle County
2430 Old County Rd., Newark, DE 19702
302-832-3100 ext. 3

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United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Delaware

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

Photo by Carol Bason

USDA
2008 Farm Bill

Helping People Help the Land

What is the Wetlands Reserve Program?

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to people who want to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their land.

What's in it for you?

When you apply to WRP, you'll begin by working with an NRCS conservation professional to develop a restoration plan that identifies areas suited for restoration along with conservation practices that best address specific conditions on your land.

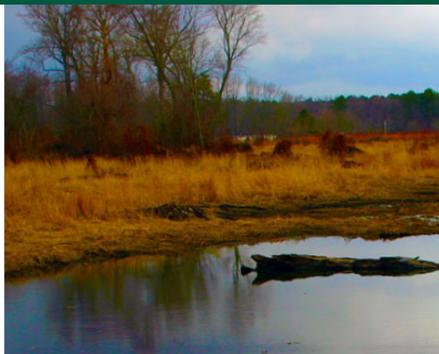
NRCS offers a per acre compensation rate for permanent and 30-year easements. Permanent easements receive 100 percent of the compensation rate while 30-year easements receive 75 percent of the compensation rate.

WRP financial assistance ranges from 75 percent of restoration costs for 30-year easements and 10-year restoration agreements to 100 percent of all costs for permanent easements.

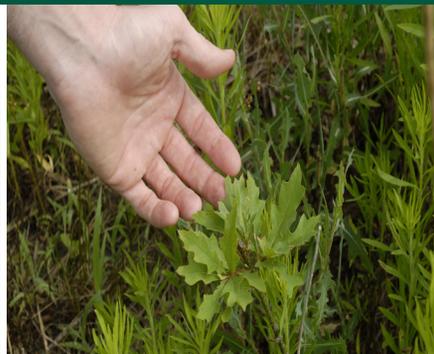
These are just a few of the conservation practices eligible for WRP funding:



water control structures



shallow water areas



tree planting



berm



ditch plugs



grass plantings

In Delaware, there are approximately **eight different conservation practices** eligible for funding through WRP. Visit our website, or call your local NRCS office for a full list of eligible conservation practices and payment rates.

Are you eligible for WRP?

WRP participants must:

- be an individual, entity, or joint operation.
- have ownership of the land for a minimum of seven years prior to enrollment (waivers may be available for special situations).
- show evidence of ownership of the land.

Restorable land enrolled in WRP must be:

- wetlands cleared or drained for farming, pasture, or timber.
- restorable riparian habitat corridors that connect protected wetlands.
- drained wooded wetlands where hydrology will be significantly restored.
- lands substantially altered by flooding where there is a likelihood of successful wetland restoration at a reasonable cost.

How to apply:

Contact your local NRCS field office to begin the application process.

- **To begin, you will work with NRCS to review the easement deed or restoration cost-share agreement.**
- **NRCS will make a land eligibility determination on your acreage.**
- **If eligible, NRCS will develop a preliminary restoration plan for you.**
- **Next, NRCS will review agreement to purchase easement or restoration agreement.**
- **Applications may be submitted anytime.**
 - ▶ You will need to fill out several forms to determine eligibility for federal programs.
 - ▶ Applications will be evaluated periodically in a competitive ranking process as funding becomes available.