

So You Want to Build a Pond?

Information compiled by the Clark County Soil & Water Conservation District

1. According to the Clark County, IN office of Planning and Zoning, Clark County does not require any local (in addition to IN State) permits to construct a pond. It is suggested that you double-check to make sure this information is still accurate when a pond is to be constructed. Also be sure that you are aware of liability issues, for example if the dam would fail and cause flooding of properties nearby – you would be held responsible.
2. If a dam will be constructed, it may require a permit and a geotechnical review from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water.
3. If the proposed dam is 20' or higher and/or the drainage area is 1 square mile or more, a permit is required by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water.
4. If the pond will be located in the floodway, it will require a permit from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water.
5. If there will be any construction in or near a perennial stream, an Army Corps of Engineers permit, may be required.
6. If the total disturbed site (construction entrance, and pond) is over 1 acre, a Rule 5/Rule 13 (from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management) permit would be required. This process would be handled through the Clark County Stormwater Coordinator/County Engineer, Brian Dixon with assistance from the Soil and Water Conservation District.
7. Remember- Many contractors will offer to build you a pond, but there is no guarantee it will hold water. They can build you a dam, the pond is “up to nature”. We suggest you hire an experienced contractor.

Important Phone Numbers:

Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water, 402 W. Washington Street, Room W264, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 1-877-928-3755

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District Office – Regulatory Program, P.O. Box 59, Louisville, KY 40201, 502-315-6733.

Clark County Stormwater Coordinator/County Engineer, Brian Dixon, 812-285-6286

Clark County Planning & Zoning: 812-285-6287

Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Rule 5/13 Staff
1-800-451-6027, ext. 3-1864.

Online Resources:

Indiana Rule 5/Rule 13 permits:

<http://www.in.gov/idem/5912.htm>

Waterways Permitting Handbook- Indiana Department of Environmental Management

http://www.in.gov/idem/wetlands/files/waterways_permitting_handbook.pdf

Indiana Ponds Publication ID-409-W:

<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/id/id-409-w.pdf>

Indiana Ponds Q & A Publication ID-410-W:

<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/id/id-409-w.pdf>

USDA-NRCS: Ponds Planning, Design & Construction:

<http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/publications/USDAPONDS.pdf>

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