

The Benefits of Wetlands are Public as Well as Private

Wetland Creation, A Win/Win Situation

The benefits of wetlands are public as well as private. Wetlands provide a productive wildlife habitat system for landowners, allowing them to protect, restore, and enhance their land while being provided technical and financial support from USDA-NRCS when enrolled in programs such as the Wetlands Reserve Program.

Wetlands also offer numerous environmental benefits such as providing a natural water storage system, receiving flood water, improving water quality, and releasing improved water slowly back into streams. Wetlands aid in erosion control, denitrification, reduce carbon dioxide, and produce oxygen.

Economical benefits include water storage for irrigation, the ability to replenish ground water, trapping of fur-bearing animals, hunting leases, and government payments. Wetlands provide recreational enjoyment for bird watching, fishing, and duck hunting.

Wetlands come in many different classifications including permanent, seasonal, farmable, isolated, coastal and tidal, forest or prairie, restored or constructed.

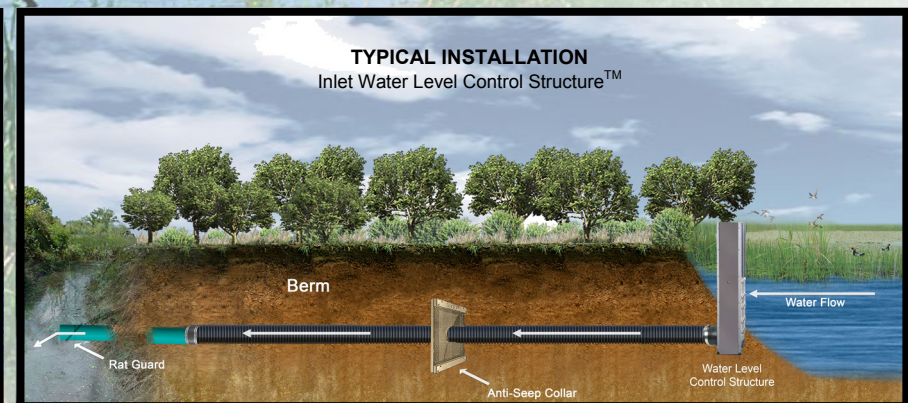
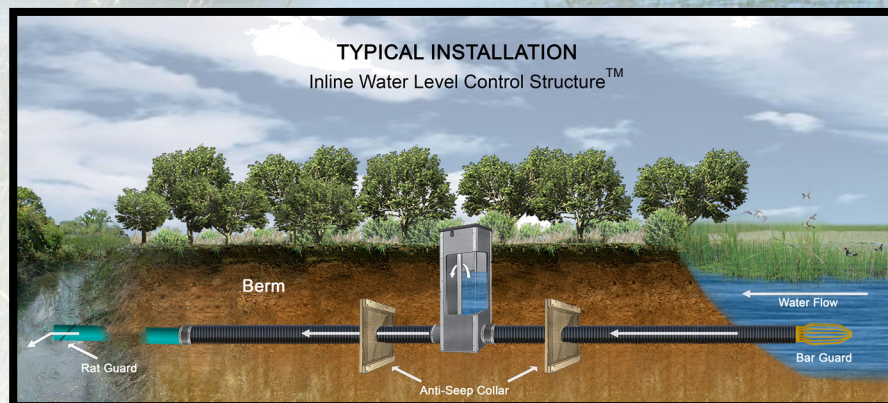
Managing Your Wetland

A Manual or Automated Water Level Control Structure is necessary to control the depth and volume of water within your wetland. There are many management opportunities when using water level control structures such as the ability to adjust the water level based on time of year which would be a major factor for farmers with a seasonal wetland during the spring planting and fall harvest season, weed control, flooding for ducks, working on duck blinds, setting or retrieving decoys, maintenance on dam, removal of silt, or repair of inlet guards or water lines.

If you are interested in building or restoring a wetland on your land, contact your local USDA-NRCS Office and see what programs are available to you.



Photos courtesy of USDA NRCS



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