

KEY DEFINITIONS

Development includes activities such as:

- Constructing, rebuilding, or placing buildings and structures, including sheds, decks, docks, gazebos, retaining walls, and similar features.
- Making changes to existing buildings or structures that increase their size, change their use, or add dwelling units.
- Site grading.
- Placing, removing, or moving soil, fill, or other materials on a property.

Hazardous Lands: land that could be unsafe for development because of naturally occurring processes like flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, unstable soil or bedrock.

Watercourse: a defined channel, having a bed and banks or sides, in which a flow of water regularly or continuously occurs.

A **wetland** is an area of land that:

- Is covered by shallow water seasonally or year-round, or has water close to the ground surface.
- Is connected to and supports the natural flow of water within a watershed through connection with a surface watercourse.
- Contains water-saturated soils.
- Supports plants that thrive in wet conditions.

MORE RESOURCES

This pamphlet provides a high-level overview of GSCA's permitting process for agricultural tile drainage.

For more information about this process including additional resources and information about how to submit your permit application, please visit our website:

www.greysauble.on.ca/tile-drainage



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AGRICULTURAL TILE DRAINAGE Permitting Guide



Why is a permit required from Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA)?

Certain activities within regulated areas require permission from GSCA under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act, and Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits.

What activities related to agricultural tile drainage need a permit?

Activities that include altering watercourses, wetlands, site grading, placing, and/or removing material within regulated areas require a permit.

PERMIT REVIEW PROCESS

What is the purpose of GSCA's review?

One of the main roles of a conservation authority is to help protect people and property from flooding and erosion. GSCA reviews development like tile drainage to ensure it does not increase natural hazard risks to neighbouring or downstream properties or impact the function of wetlands or watercourses.

How does the review process work?

GSCA looks at the following factors as part of the technical review of tile drainage activities:

1. Are the works proposed within a regulated area?
2. Where is the proposed outlet?
3. Is a crossing proposed?
4. Is there a proposed enclosure of a watercourse?
5. Is a pond proposed to be backfilled?
6. Are there any additional approvals required?



HOW TO GET A PERMIT

Step 1: Fill out a permit application or contact our Environmental Planning Department for assistance.

Step 2: Ensure your permit application is complete by including the following information:

- A completed permit application signed by the property owner.
- A tile drainage plan showing property boundaries.
- Cross-section drawings of the outlet(s).
- An erosion and sediment control plan.
- Payment (wait until a GSCA staff confirms the project fee).

Note: Depending on the project, GSCA staff may request additional information during the review process.

Step 3: GSCA staff will review your application and may request additional information if needed.

Step 4: If your application is deemed complete, staff will review permit policy and may conduct a site visit.

Step 5: If your project meets all the requirements, GSCA will approve and issue your permit.

How Long Does It Take to Get a Permit?
Approvals can take 3 - 6 weeks depending on project complexity and application volumes at the time of submission.

PERMIT EXEMPTIONS

Under Ontario Regulation 41/24, a permit may not be required for certain agricultural activities, including:

- Some in-field erosion control structures.
- Certain new tile drainage installations, and the maintenance or repair of existing tile drains.
- Livestock watering ponds that meet exemption criteria.
- The maintenance or repair of municipal drains completed in accordance with applicable legislation and protocols.

Exemptions depend on factors such as proximity to wetlands and watercourses, drainage connections, and project design.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Tree and shrub planting does not require a GSCA permit.
- Contact Bruce/Grey County or your municipality about tree removal.
- New fencing may be exempt from requiring a permit.
- Other agency approvals may be needed depending on your project.
- Consider using best management practices to help protect water and soil resources.

Contact GSCA before starting your project to confirm whether it qualifies for an exemption or requires other approvals.