How to Obtain a Reclamation Permit

- If you intend to open a Nonmetallic mine in a town with zoning, you will need a zoning public notice and hearing.
- Contact the Land Conservation Department for copies of NR 135 and the Wood County Nonmetallic Mine Reclamation Ordinance.
- There will need to be a public notice and the opportunity for a public informational hearing for each permit applicant.
- Fill out the Nonmetallic Mining Permit Application and develop a Nonmetallic Reclamation plan.

An Active Stone Quarry

Quarry Before Reclamation

Quarry Reclaimed as a County Park
With a Recreation Center

LAND and WATER CONSERVATION

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Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance

Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance

What is Nonmetallic Mining?

Nonmetallic mining is the extraction of mineral aggregates or nonmetallic minerals "for sale by the operator". Nonmetallic minerals include sand gravel, rock, clay, topsoil, etc.

Who Needs a Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Permit?

Anyone who has a nonmetallic mine larger than one acre over the lifetime of the mine and is going to sell the material that they dig, needs a permit. This one acre area includes roads, stockpiles, stripped areas, and active digging areas. A permit is not needed to dig nonmetallic minerals for personal use, exemption paperwork may be necessary.

Why Do We Need a Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance?

- The ordinance was adopted in response to concerns about abandoned nonmetallic mining sites. Too often, such sites were safety hazards that created situations resulting in personal injury or loss of life. Some abandoned mines also resulted in the loss of productive land use, diminished habitat, decreased tax revenues and had negative impacts on the property value of adjacent landowners. They also caused threats to the environment, particularly surface water, through erosion and sedimentation.
- These impacts can easily be prevented through proper reclamation of the mining sites. Reclamation ensures that mine sites are returned to a productive and beneficial land use once mining is completed.
- In response to these concerns, the state legislature directed the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to write a reclamation rule. NR 135 was established to ensure uniform reclamation standards are applied consistently throughout the state. Local governments administer the program.

Reclamation in progress of nonmetallic mine.

Does NR 135 Affect the Siting and Permitting of New Mines?

No. This rule creates a RECLAMATION program only. It is not a zoning rule and will have no effect on local zoning decisions. This rule deals only with the final site reclamation and environmental protection and has no effect on siting decisions.

How Can We be Sure that the Fees Charged by the County Are Not Too High?

The statute provides local governments with the ability to collect fees for use in the administration of the program. In Wood County, the Land Conservation Department administers the program, and therefore collects the fees. These fees must equal, as closely as possible, the actual costs of administering the program.

Local governments <u>may not</u> use nonmetallic mining reclamation fees for any other purpose.

Sand and Gravel Mine Reclaimed as a Wetland.