



**City of Noblesville  
Department of Engineering  
Advisory for the Design and Construction of Projects  
Affecting Waterways, a Floodway  
or Floodway Fringe  
and Potential Impacts to Wetlands**

**Overview**

Recognizing that the design and or construction of any project may span several jurisdictional agencies for drainage approval, this advisory is intended to guide a property owner, designer, or contractor to and through the appropriate approval process for construction in a floodway, the floodway fringe, or impacts to wetlands.

The Federal Government and the State of Indiana have very strict regulations for construction or land disturbing activities in designated flood areas and impacts to wetlands. The City of Noblesville's requirements, regulations, and restrictions for work in the floodway and floodway fringe are outlined in Part E of Article 8 of the City of Noblesville's Unified Development Ordinance. The regulations for the City of Noblesville do not supersede or preclude the need to contact, investigate, or eliminate the need to procure a permit for work in a floodway or wetlands from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and or the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The hierarchy of permit authority is attached as Exhibit A.

**Permits for Construction Activity**

Prior to the design of a project which will require any earth disturbing activity, the City's Stormwater Utility, for water quality, and Engineering Department, for water quantity, shall be contacted for input on meeting the necessary requirements for meeting local water quality, infrastructure, and detention standards. These initial contacts or reviews may identify additional agencies which have jurisdiction over proposed drainage improvements. The most common jurisdiction over public drainage systems other than the City of Noblesville within the City limits is the Hamilton County Surveyor's Office. A list of streams or drainage areas under the jurisdiction of the Hamilton County Surveyor's Office and other information may be obtained at <http://www.co.hamilton.in.us/departments.asp?id=2200>.

It is not uncommon for drainage improvements within the Noblesville to require multi-jurisdictional approvals.

The City of Noblesville's Planning Department issues its own individual permit called Improvement Location Permits (ILP) for any construction occurring in Noblesville. ILP are permits issued by the City in compliance with its own regulations. Procuring an ILP or receiving approval from the City of Noblesville for any project does not necessarily constitute final or ultimate approval from agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers,

the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and the Hamilton County Surveyor's Office, among other. Additionally receiving approval or a permit from the City of Noblesville does not alleviate the responsibility for obtaining said permits and receiving approval from the City of Noblesville does not absolve the permittee from obtaining other permits.

Projects commonly requiring permits in addition to an ILP include improvements in a floodway, wetlands, and the area around and directly affecting Morse Reservoir.

### **Construction in a Floodway or Floodway Fringe**

Maps, most commonly referred to as Flood Insurance Rate Maps or FIRM Maps, indicating the limits of the floodway and floodway fringe are available through the City of Noblesville's Planning Department. Construction within a designate floodway requires approval from the City of Noblesville, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). ILPs issued from the City of Noblesville are all subject to approvals from these agencies.

Projects within the floodway fringe require special approval from the City of Noblesville's Planning Department.

### **Construction Affecting Wetlands**

Caution is advised in disturbing historically wet, low, and or wooded areas. Although the City of Noblesville may issue an ILP, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management has strict jurisdiction over the preservation of wetlands within the State of Indiana. Wetlands are defined by their hydric properties, plant life, and topographic features that define them. They may be farmed or unfarmed.

Although it may be assumed or perceived that wetlands may not exist on a property, their suspected presence may be identified in the field by a professional, from existing or historical aerial photographs on file with the City or County, the USEPA Wetlands Inventory Map, or by the USDA/UGS Soil Survey for Hamilton County. All ILPs are issued subject to revocation in the event that there are official identified wetlands, the discovery of wetlands, or the other discretion taken by the Department Environmental Management. If there is any question regarding the disturbance of any existing or suspected wetlands, an advisory opinion may be obtained, and in some instances required, from IDEM in writing by the City of Noblesville.

### **Construction Around Morse Reservoir**

All work occurring above along Morse Reservoir within the jurisdiction of the City of Noblesville requires approval from City's Engineering Department and Stormwater Utility as well as an ILP from the Planning Department.

**Above elevation 814.00**

Work occurring above an elevation only requires approval from the City of Noblesville.

**Below elevation 814.00 and Above 810.00**

Any construction that occurs in or along the bank of Morse Reservoir between an elevation of 810.0 (dam level) and 814.00 (100-year flood elevation) must receive a permit or written verification that a permit is not needed from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

**Below 810.00**

Any work below the dam level of 810.00 requires permits from the City of Noblesville subject to permits from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, AND the Indianapolis Water Company who is owner or the reservoir. In the event that permits are not required from any of these agency, verification in writing from each agency to permittee shall be provided to the City.