

History of Wetlands in Minnesota

Despite their benefits, wetlands have long been considered a nuisance and have been drained or filled for agricultural production or urban development. Lack of awareness about the benefits of wetlands and governmental policies that encouraged draining and filling are largely to blame for this loss.

Until the settlement of Minnesota in the 1860s, about 18.6 million of its 53.6 million acres were wetland. Today, only half remain.



Minnesota Wetlands
Circa 1860s

Legend

- Peat soil wetlands
- Mineral soil wetlands
- Upland areas
- Deep water areas

Source:
*Growing Energy Crops on
Minnesota's Wetlands:
The Land Use Perspective* (1984)
by Jeffrey P. Anderson and William J. Craig



Minnesota Wetlands Today



One West Water Street, Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55107

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