

# Conclusion

Wetland restoration is about doing our best to improve the health and function of degraded wetland ecosystems. If a plan starts to become large and overwhelming, remember that oftentimes simple is just as effective as complex, and all efforts large and small are important. We hope that this guide helps you make sense of the ecosystems around you and achieve your restoration goals. Thank you for your interest and efforts.

## Outline for an Effective Wetland Restoration Project

### Define your project purpose and select a site

- Choose one or two primary goals.
- Compare site restoration potential with project goals.

### Understand your site

- What does your site look like now?
- What would the site look like without human-caused disturbance?
- How have natural ecological processes been altered?
- What are the minimum restoration practices necessary to achieve healthy ecosystem function and your project goals?
- Identify challenges.

### Draft a concept restoration plan and make a feasibility assessment

- Contact the Vermont Wetlands Program to make sure you're on the right track.

### Develop a restoration plan

- Keep it simple and effective.
- Map and plan restoration practices.
- Outline permitting requirements.
- Outline project schedule.
- Describe monitoring and management expectations.

### Submit plan and apply for any necessary permits

- Work cannot begin until plan is approved and any necessary permits are acquired.

### Begin restoration activities

- Adapt to site conditions while following plan and permits requirements.

### Conduct post-treatment monitoring and adaptive management

- Catch any issues before they cause damage or become difficult to deal with.

