



1

Introductions

- Ben Meyer- CMWP- MN Board of Water & Soil Resources
 - Co-Coordinator-MN Wetland Professional Certification Program
 - Wetland Specialist- North Metro Counties
- David Demmer- CMWP- MN Board of Water & Soil Resources
 - Co-Coordinator-MN Wetland Professional Certification Program
 - Wetland Specialist- NE MN Counties

- MN Association of Professional Soil Scientists:
- Luke Lunde- Professional Soil Scientist- WSB LLC
 - Steve Lawler- Professional Soil Scientist- Mower SWCD
 - David Bauer- Professional Soil Scientist- CMWP- Alliant Engineering
 - Wayne Cymbaluk- Professional Soil Scientist- Stearns SWCD



2

2025 MWPCP Training Courses

Technical Training

- **Soils on the Landscape**- Robert Ney Regional Park -April 29 & 30- Two one-day classes (6 CEC per day)
- **Wetland Delineation Methods w Field Practicum**- Cloquet Forestry Center- May 20-22 (18 CEC)
- **Plant ID**- Shoreview MNDOT Training Center (July 14) and Cloquet Forestry Center (July 16)-Two one-day classes (6 CEC per day)
- **MWPCP Regional Wetland Training- Northeast MN**- Hermantown City Hall- August 12-13 (6 CEC per day)
- **Hydrogeomorphic Method of Classifying Wetlands** - Hartley Nature Center, Duluth- October 28-29- Two one-day classes (6 CEC per day)
- **Wetland Banking & Monitoring for Consultants**- Shoreview MNDOT Training Center- November 12-13 (12 CEC)



3

2025 MWPCP Training Courses

Introduction to Wetland Delineation and Regulations

- Introduction to Wetland Delineation and Regulations: MNDOT Training Center, Shoreview- June 9-13
- Introduction to Wetland Delineation and Regulations: Northland Arboretum, Baxter - September 8-12
- Introduction to Wetland Delineation and Regulations: MNDOT Training Center, Shoreview - October 6-10

Professional Exams

MWPCP Exams will be offered at 1pm on: June 13 in Shoreview, September 12 in Baxter, October 10 in Shoreview



4

Upcoming MAPSS Events

MAPSS 2025 Summer Tour and Business Meeting
August 1, 2025
Artesols – The Urban/Built Environment Soils

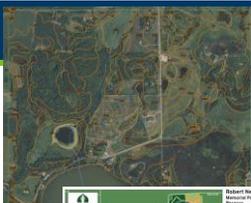
MAPSS Winter Technical Event- December 5



www.mnsoilscientist.org

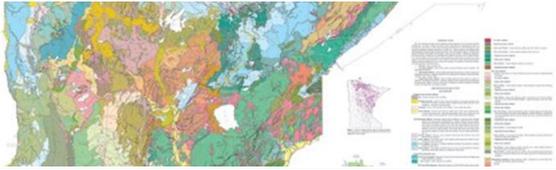
5

Soils on the Landscape Course Agenda



- Des Moines Lobe to HGM: How Glaciers Shaped the Wetlands of Minnesota
- Soil Catenas along Landforms
- Hydric Soil Indicators
- Introduction to field sites via the Web Soil Survey
- Lunch (bag lunch on your own) then meet at field site after lunch
- Field stations

6



**Des Moines Lobe to HGM:
How Glacial Geology Shaped the Wetlands of Minnesota**

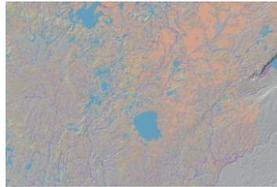
mn BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



7

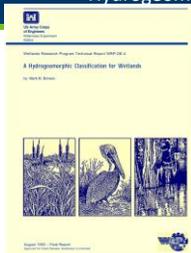
Objectives

- Understand how glacial activity shaped MN landscapes and deposited soil parent material.
- Geomorphology is used to classify wetlands based on the Hydrogeomorphic Method.
- 3 Parameters of HGM- Geomorphology, Hydrology and Hydraulics- contribute to soil development.



8

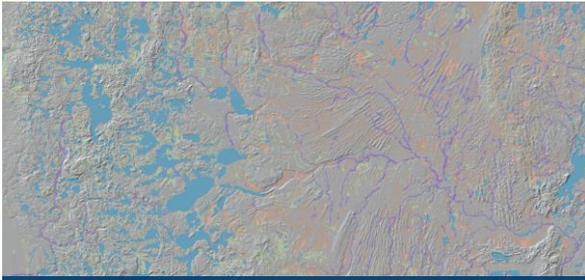
Hydrogeomorphic Method of Classifying Wetlands



Classification Name	Definition
Lacustrine	Wetland occurs within a topographic depression that has a closed elevation contour that allows the accumulation of surface water and is restricted to the margin of a depressional lake basin.
Riverine	Wetland occurs on a nearly level landform and lies along and is influenced by flooding from a stream, river or flow-through ditch.
Slope	Wetland occurs on a slope (generally <math>< 2\%</math>) with groundwater discharge as its primary source of hydrology.
Mineral Flat	Wetland occurs on a nearly level landform, is not significantly influenced by flooding from a stream, river or flow-through ditch and has predominately mineral soils.
Organic Flat	Wetland occurs on a nearly level landform, is not significantly influenced by flooding from a stream, river or flow-through ditch and has predominately organic soils.
Depression	Wetland occurs within a topographic depression that has a closed elevation contour that allows the accumulation of surface water and is not associated with the margin of a depressional lake basin.

Rosen, B. M. (1970). "A hydrogeomorphic classification for wetlands." Technical Report WSP-25-C, U.S. Army, Research Monograph Wetlands Report, Vicksburg, MS.

9

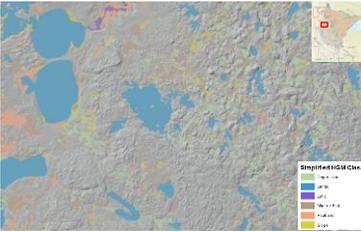


3 Parameters of HGM= Hydrology, Geomorphology, Hydraulics

10

Parameters of HGM

- Geomorphology- landscape position
 - Where a wetland situated and the shape of the landscape
- Hydrology- water source and output
 - Why the wetland is there
- Hydraulics- hydrodynamics
 - What it does

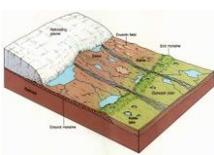


11

Study of physical features on the surface of the earth and their relation to its geologic structures

Geomorphology

- Landscape position
- Parent material
- Surface shape



12

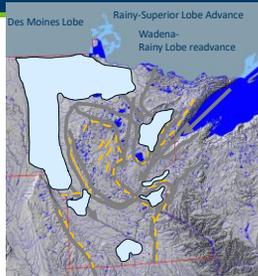
Glacial Geology of MN



- Glaciation of the Quaternary period (oldest to youngest):
 - Nebraskan
 - Kansan
 - Illinoian
 - Wisconsin
 - Wadena lobe
 - Rainy-Superior lobe
 - Des Moines lobe

13

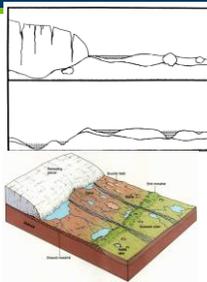
In MN, geomorphology is result of glacial geology



14

How Glaciers Shape Wetlands

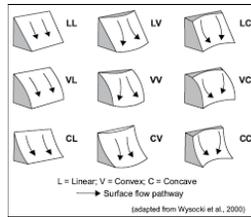
- Kettle depressions
- Glacial lakes
- Surficial shape of landscape
- Fluvial-Lacustrine systems following glacial outwash
- Deposition of material with different properties



15

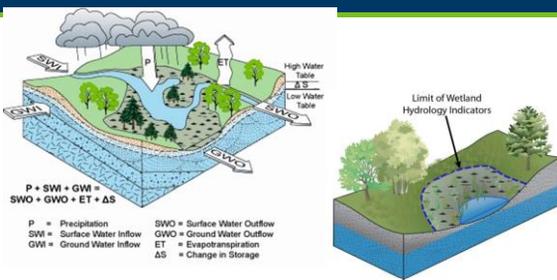
Landscape Position- surface shape

- Convex- surface curves outward
- Concave- surface curves inward
- Linear- flat, one dimensional surface



16

Wetland Hydrology and Indicators



17

Hydrology Indicator Groups



Group A – direct observation of water



Group B – evidence of flooding/ponding



Group C – evidence of current or recent saturation.

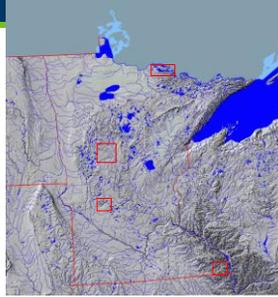


Group D – Landscape and veg. characteristics that indicate contemporary wetland conditions.

18

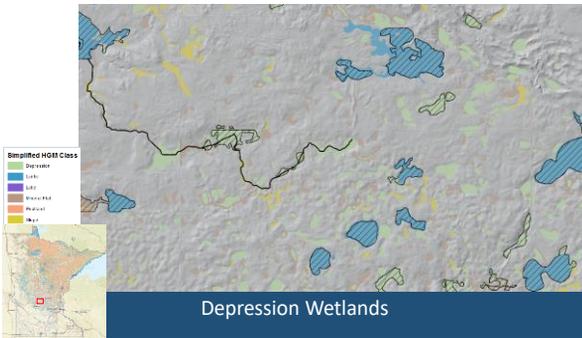
Glaciers left different HGM classes of wetlands in MN

- Kettle depressions
 - Depression and lacustrine fringe
- Glacial lakes
 - Organic and mineral flat
- Surficial shape of landscape
 - Mineral flat and sloped
- Fluvial-Lacustrine systems following glacial outwash
 - Riverine, mineral flat, sloped, organic flat



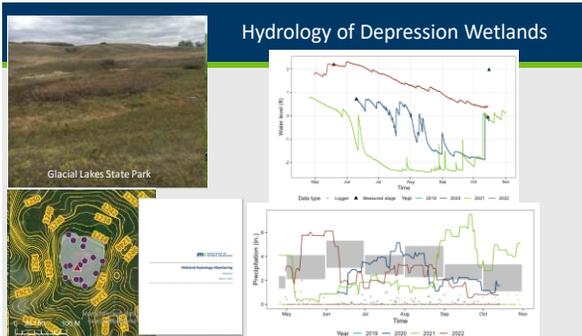
22

Depression Wetlands



23

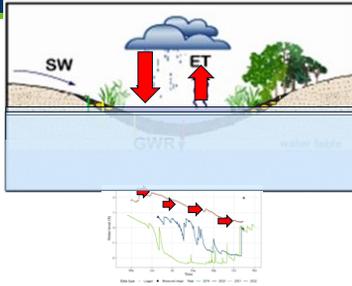
Hydrology of Depression Wetlands



24

Hydraulics of Depression Wetlands

- Vertical uni-directional
- No surface outlet
- Evapotranspiration
 - Increases and decreases with growing season
- Water table “bounces” with precipitation



25

Depression Marsh to Mineral Flat Wet Prairie

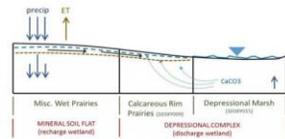
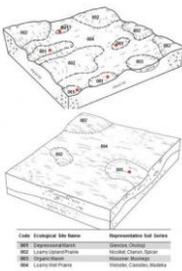
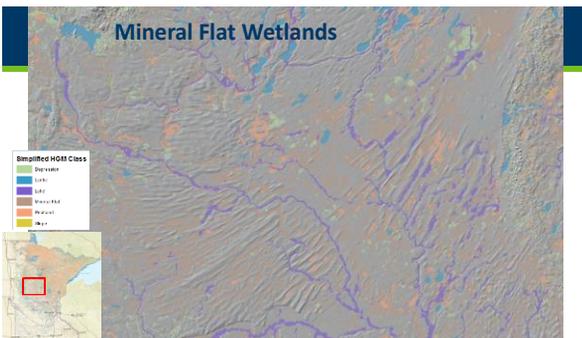


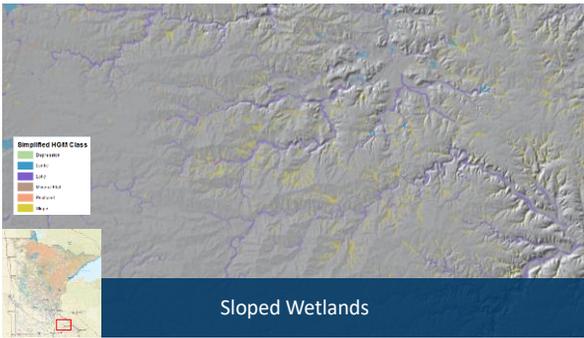
Figure 10. Hydrologic representation of a typical Des Moines Lobe (MLRA 103) Depressional Marsh and associated Ecological Sites.

26

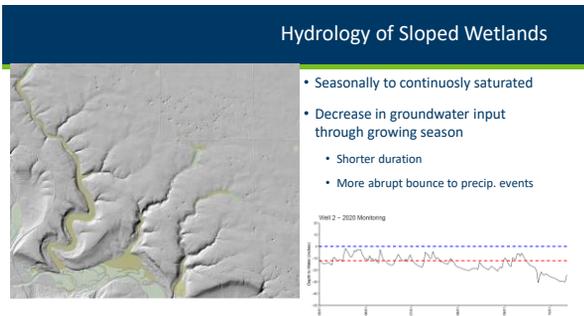
Mineral Flat Wetlands



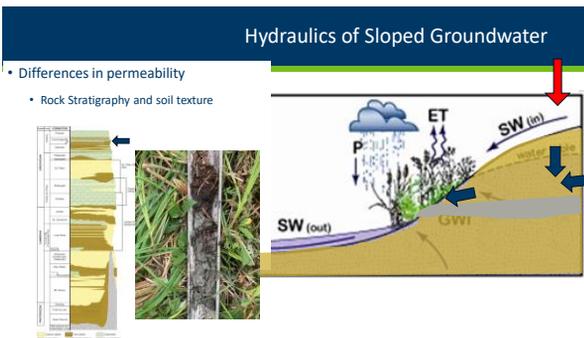
27



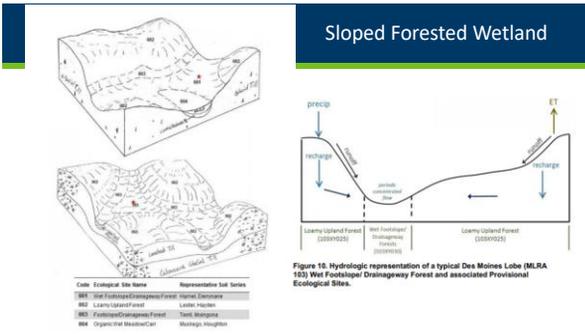
31



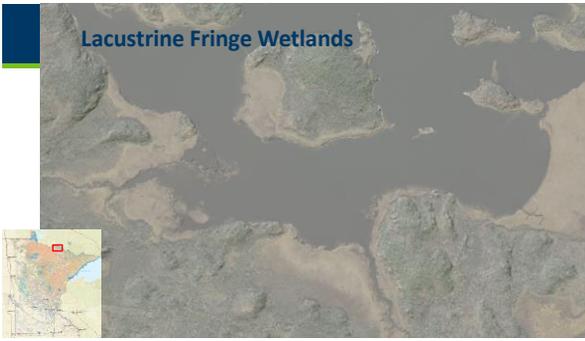
32



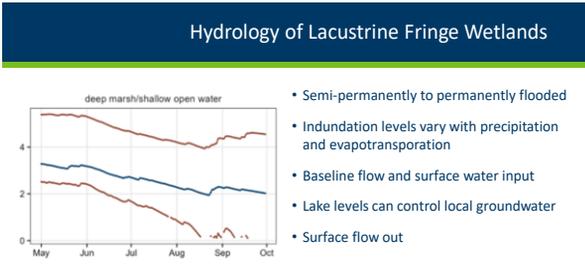
33



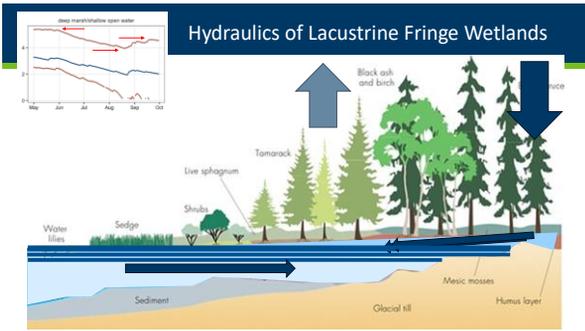
34



35



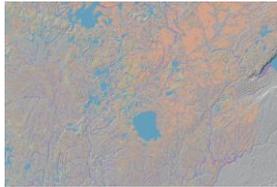
36



37

Key Concepts:

- Understand how glacial activity shaped MN landscapes and deposited soil parent material.
- Geomorphology is used to classify wetlands based on the Hydrogeomorphic Method.
- 3 Parameters of HGM- Geomorphology, Hydrology and Hydraulics- contribute to soil development.



38



Questions, comments, thoughts, ridicule...

David Demmer- MN Board of Water & Soil Resources
 MN Wetland Professional Certification Program
 david.demmer@state.mn.us



39

What is Soil?

- Natural body that occurs on the land surface, occupies space, and is characterized by one or both of the following:
 - Horizons or layers, or
 - The ability to support rooted plants in a natural environment
 - Upper limit is air or shallow (>2.5 m) water
 - Lower limit is either bedrock or the limit of biological activity
 - Lower limit for classification set at an arbitrary 2 m



40

Two Categories of Soil Material - Mineral Soil/Horizons

Mineral horizons

- Primarily sand, silt, and clay, with varying amounts of organic matter



Organic horizons

- consists of mostly decomposed organic material

41

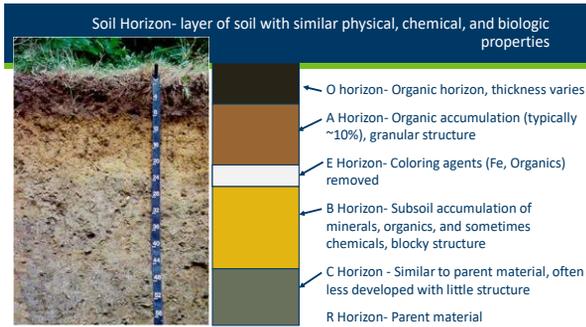
Key Soil Properties

Properties that are important to hydric soil development and recognition:

- Horizons- layer of soil with similar physical, chemical, and biologic properties
- Texture- relative proportion of soil particles (sand, silt, clay)
- Structure- arrangement of solid parts and of the pore spaces located between them
- Permeability- ability of water to move through a material
- Color- hue, value, chroma
- Organic matter- percent, thickness, and level of organic decomposition
- Drainage- presence of natural and human drainage on a landscape



42



43

Coloring Agents in Soil

- **Organic matter**
 - OM will mask all other coloring agents.
- **Iron**
 - brown colors are the result of Fe oxide stains coating individual particles
- **Manganese**
 - resulting in a very dark black or purplish black color
- **Calcium**
 - Resulting in lighter colors, chemically unique
- **Lack of coatings**
 - Color of the mineral soil grains (stripped)

44

Color

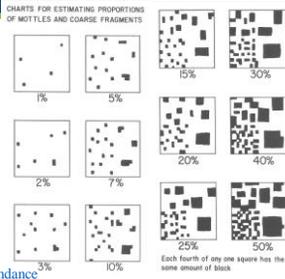
- **Matrix (predominant) color**
- **Color of redoximorphic features**
 - Contrast, abundance, location, and size of redox features

What is the percent of redox?
30%

45

Abundance and Size of Redox

- Abundance**
- Few -- less than 2%
 - Common -- 2 to 20%
 - Many -- more than 20%
- Size**
- Fine -- < 5 mm
 - Medium -- 5 to 15 mm
 - Coarse -- > 15 mm



Several indicators require at least 2% abundance

46

Contrast

- Contrast refers to the degree of visual distinction between associated colors
- Faint -- evident only on close examination
- Distinct -- readily seen at arms length
- Prominent -- contrast strongly

Contrast Class	S U	Difference in Color Between Matrix and RMF (A means "difference between")	
		Hue (h) Value (v)	Chroma (c)
Faint †	F	$\Delta h = 0; \Delta v \leq 2$ and $\Delta c \leq 1$	
		$\Delta h = 1; \Delta v \leq 1$ and $\Delta c \leq 1$	
		$\Delta h = 2; \Delta v = 0$ and $\Delta c = 0$	
Distinct †	D	$\Delta h = 0; \Delta v \leq 2$ and $\Delta c > 1$ to < 4	
		or $\Delta v > 2$ to < 4 and $\Delta c < 4$	
		$\Delta h = 1; \Delta v \leq 1$ and $\Delta c > 1$ to < 3	
Prominent †	P	or $\Delta v > 1$ to < 3 and $\Delta c < 3$	
		$\Delta h = 2; \Delta v = 0$ and $\Delta c > 0$ to < 2	
		or $\Delta v > 0$ to < 2 and $\Delta c < 2$	
		$\Delta h = 0; \Delta v \geq 4$ or $\Delta c \geq 4$	
		$\Delta h = 1; \Delta v \geq 3$ or $\Delta c \geq 3$	
		$\Delta h = 2; \Delta v \geq 2$ or $\Delta c \geq 2$	
		$\Delta h \geq 3$	

† If compared colors have both a value ≤ 3 and a chroma of ≤ 2 , the contrast is Faint, regardless of hue differences.

Several indicators require distinct or prominent contrast!

47

Depleted Matrix

Iron removed or re-organized in profile leaving Grey matrix

- Value 4 or More
- Chroma 2 or Less

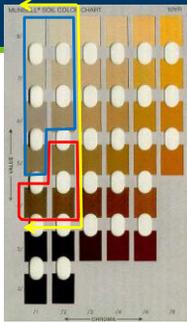


48

Depleted Matrix Requirement

Do Not Need Concentrations

Need Concentrations (2%)



High Value (4 or more)

Low Chroma (2 or Less)

49

Gleyed Matrix Requirements

Gleyed Matrix

- Iron Present, but in reduced state (Fe²⁺) Gleyed color with value ≥ 4



50

Definition of a Hydric Soil

- A hydric soil is a soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part.



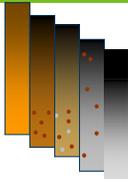
51

Hydric Soil Development

Hydric soils indicators develop in **anaerobic** conditions by the process of :

1. **Reduction** and Re-oxidation of Iron
2. **Organic Matter** Accumulation

Foundation of the Field Indicator Manual.



52

Hydric Soil Development

Soil microbes that drive reduction require:

1. Anaerobic conditions (saturated soil)
2. Organic matter (energy source)
3. Soil temperature warm enough for microbial respiration (>41F)
4. Duration of conditions (Time)

In anaerobic conditions decomposition slows and leads to organic accumulation

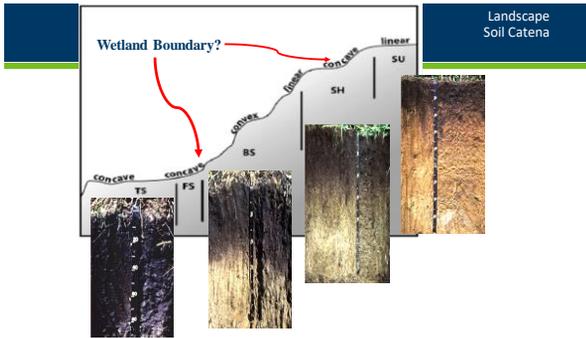


53

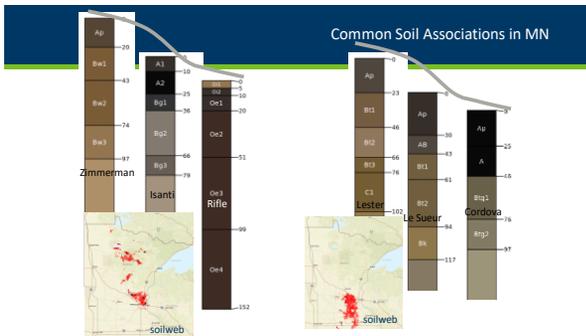
Anaerobic process



54



55



56

Field Indicators of Hydric Soils

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
in cooperation with the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils

Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States
A Guide to Identifying and Defining Hydric Soils, Version 5.0, 2024

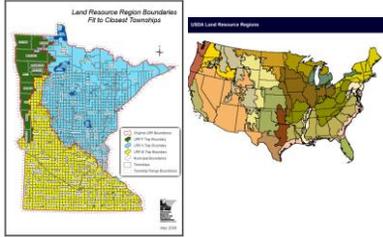
Natural Resources Conservation Service

- National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils

Used for **on-site verification** of hydric soils

57

Field Indicator Organization- Regions



58

Field Indicator Organization- Texture

- Use regardless of texture(s)
 - All Mineral
 - All Organic
- Typically, organic matter influences near the surface
- Includes smell
 - Rotten egg

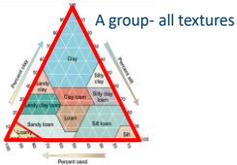
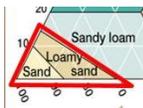


59

Soil Indicator Groups- Texture

- Sandy Soil Indicators (S):
- Use when texture is:
 - Loamy Fine Sand or coarser

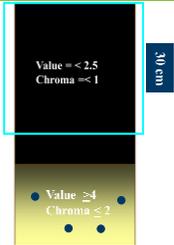
- Fine Grained Soil Indicators (F):
- Use when texture is:
 - Loamy Very Fine Sand or finer



60

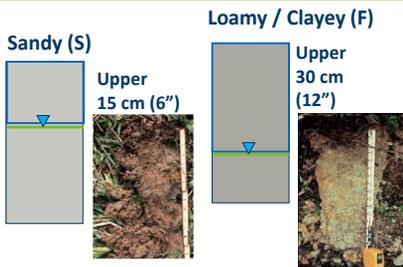
Diagnostic Zones

- Layers with :
 - **Certain Colors**
 - high value and low chroma
 - redoximorphic features
 - organic matter accumulations
 - **Specific Depths from Surface**
 - **Thickness requirements**



61

Diagnostic Zones for S and F indicator groups



62

A1- Histosol

- **A1. Histosol:** Classifies as a Histosol. A Histosol has a layer of organic matter accumulation of ≥ 16 inches in the upper 32 inches of soil material.
- Use in all LRRs

A1—Histosol (for use in all LRRs) or Histel (for use in LRRs with permeability). Classifies as a Histosol (except Folists) or as a Histel (except Folists).
User Notes: In a Histosol, typically 40 cm (16 inches) or more of the upper 80 cm (32 inches) is organic soil material (Fig. 7). Organic soil materials have organic carbon contents (by weight) of 12 to 18 percent or more, depending on the clay content of the soil. These materials include muck (sapric soil material), mucky peat (hemisapric soil material), and peat (fibric soil material). See Keys to Soil Taxonomy (Soil Survey Staff, 2014) for a complete definition.

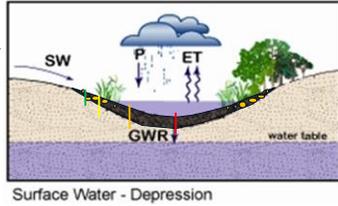


Figure 7.—Indicator A1 (Histosol or Histel). This soil has more than 40 cm (16 inches) of organic material, starting at the soil surface.

63

Cross Section of Hydric Soils in Depression Wetlands

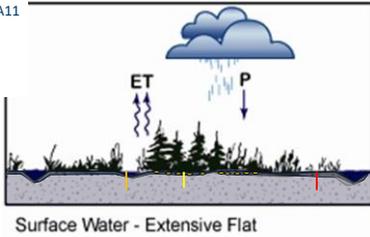
- Histosol A1
- Thick dark surface A12
- Depleted below dark surface A11
- Redox dark surface F6



67

Cross Section of Hydric Soil in Mineral Flat Wetlands

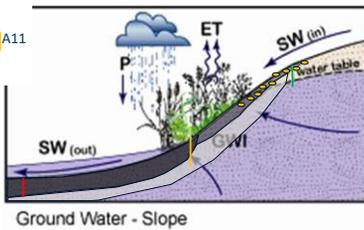
- Depleted Below dark Surface A11
- Loamy mucky mineral F1
- Redox Dark Surface F6



68

Cross Section of Hydric Soils in Sloped Wetlands

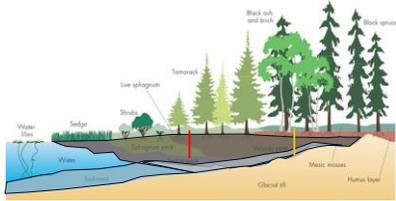
- Histosol A1
- Depleted below dark surface A11
- Redox Dark Surface F6



69

Cross Section of Hyric Soils in Lacustrine Fringe

- **Histosol** A1
- **Thick Dark Surface** A12



70

wsb
MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

USE OF WEB SOIL SURVEY TO DETERMINE SITE INFORMATION

MNBWSR CEU Training: Soils on the Landscape – Robert Nye Regional Park
April 23rd and April 24th 2023

71

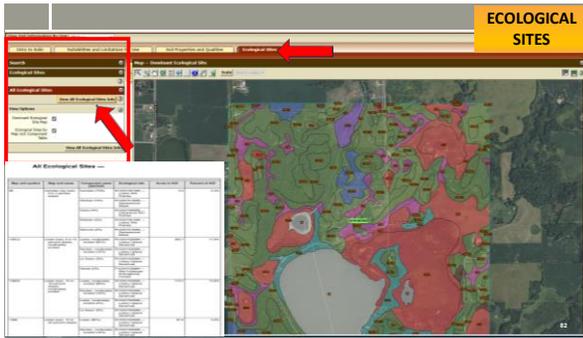
71

HOW CAN I USE THE SOIL SURVEY TO DETERMINE SITE SPECIFIC INFORMATION PRIOR TO STEPPING FOOT ONSITE ?

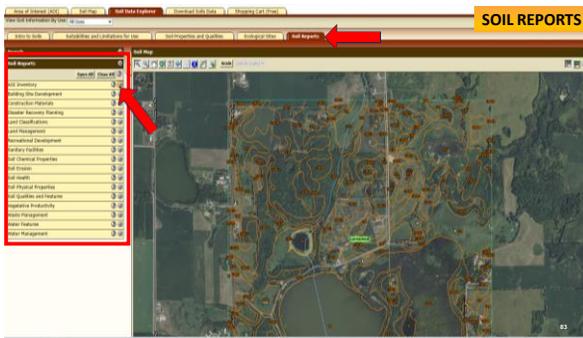
- Soil Series within project limits
- Soil Map Unit Descriptions
- Geomorphic Landscape Position
- Parent Material
- Drainage Class
- Depth of Water Table
- Depth of Bedrock
- Soil Physical Properties
- Soil Textures
- Soil Erosion Factors
- Flood Frequency
- Hydrologic Soil Group
- Ecological Sites
- Water Management

72

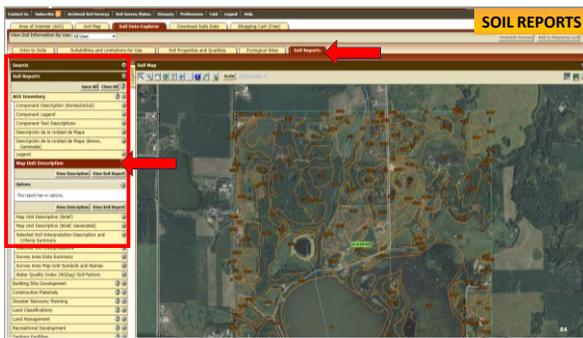
72



82

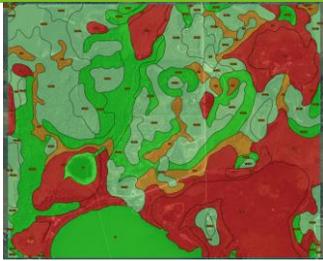


83



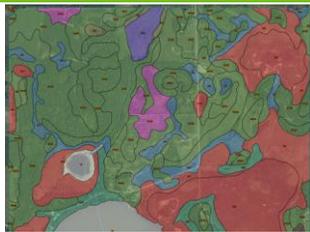
84

Hydric Soil Rating



88

Ecological Sites

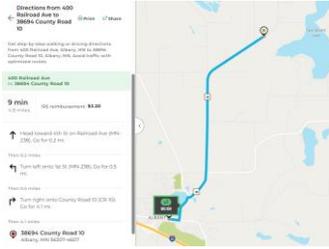


89

HGM



90



100
