

State of Michigan  
Administrative Guide to State Government

## 1710.09 Natural Rivers

Issued: January 1, 1994  
Revised: July 8, 2024

### PURPOSE

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Conservation and enhancement of natural resource values affecting designated Natural Rivers. The authority of this procedure is found in Part 305, Natural Rivers, PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

### APPLICATION

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Executive Branch Departments and Sub-units, private land owners, federal government and public utility providers.

### CONTACT AGENCY

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Department of Natural Resources (DNR)  
Fisheries Division

Telephone: 517-284-5830

Email: [DNR-Fisheries@michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-Fisheries@michigan.gov)

Web: [www.michigan.gov/dnrnaturalrivers](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrnaturalrivers)

### SUMMARY

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A permit is required from DNR Fisheries Division, or from a local governmental unit, prior to any construction, land use changes or utility routings within 400 feet of designated natural rivers, and vegetation removal within up to 200 feet of designated streams. Designated Natural Rivers are regulated through special township, county and state zoning ordinances and administrative rules, and through state rules affecting utilities and publicly developed facilities. Permit processing time is generally 60 days or less from the time a complete application is received, unless there are extenuating circumstances that require additional information.

### APPLICABLE FORMS

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PR-8031 Natural River Program Zoning Permit Application (09/16/2021)

PR-8032 Natural Rivers Program Variance Application (09/16/2021)

PR-8034 Natural Rivers Utility/Public Agency Application (02/02/2022)

### PROCEDURES

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#### Agency/Applicant

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- Establishes the need for a Natural Rivers Program Application (PR-8031, PR-8032, PR-8034) depending on the location and type of the proposed activity affecting a state designated Natural River.

## **Fisheries Division**

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- Provides Natural Rivers Program application form to applicant.

## **Applicant**

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- Returns the completed Natural Rivers Program application form to Fisheries Division.

## **Fisheries Division**

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- Natural Rivers Program staff review the application form for completeness, perform a site visit (may include the applicant) and make a final permit decision generally within 60 days of a completed application, unless there are extenuating circumstances that require additional information.

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