

Mariah L. Melone, DECI, CWS

Restoration Ecologist II



EDUCATION

B.S., Conservation Biology,
Illinois State University, 2020

Joined Firm in 2020

Years of Experience: 7

REGISTRATIONS

Commercial Pesticide
Applicator License, IL
Department of Agriculture

CERTIFICATIONS

Wetland Delineator
Certification Program, WI

Endangered Resource
Reviewer, WI DNR

Designated Erosion Control
Inspector, Lake County, IL

Flagger Training Course, IL

Soil Erosion & Stormwater
Workshop Certificate, IEPA

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wetland Certification

Certified Wetland Specialist,
Lake/McHenry/Kane Counties

Mariah has experience in wetland restoration, water sampling, tree mensuration, natural area conservation, and public outreach from her work at various municipalities. She is our firm's lead wetland delineator and ecological restoration designer. She has worked within several different wetland ecosystems, including the species that grow within them, hydrological indicators, and various wetland soil types. Mariah is familiar with numerous state and county water ordinances, allowing for proficient preparation of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permits and other various County and state stormwater permits.

REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, IL

Kickapoo Creek Watershed-Based Plan

Wetland Specialist working alongside Cecily Cunz and the Commission and Steering Committee to develop an IEPA-approved Watershed-Based Plan for Kickapoo Creek Watershed. The watershed is over 300 square miles in Peoria, Knox, and Fulton Counties and includes the City of Peoria west of the Illinois River, Kickapoo Creek, 14 named tributaries, and 55 unnamed tributaries. The Plan exists to inspire people and institutions to restore its ecosystems and water quality by reducing nonpoint source pollution, protecting and restoring its natural resources, and promoting broad stewardship so that future generations can enjoy the unique natural beauty and recreational opportunities of a healthy Kickapoo Creek.

Mariah's career accomplishments while working at Baxter & Woodman include:

- **200+ Wetland Delineations:** Lead Ecologist on 200+ wetland delineation projects in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin, but also in Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming. These wetland delineations span from transportation-related projects to stream and wetland restoration projects.
- **5+ Threatened and Endangered Species Surveys:** Lead Ecologist conducting threatened and endangered species surveys in northeast Illinois and southern Wisconsin. Species surveyed included (but not limited to): Bluestem Goldenrod, False Hop Sedge, Golden-Seal, Smooth Black-Haw, Downy Willow-Herb, Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid, Yellow-Headed Blackbird, and Elfin Skimmer Dragonfly.
- **10+ Stream Restoration, Lake/Pond Shoreline Restoration, and Turf Conversion Projects:** Ecologist on-site for stream, lake, pond, and turf conversion restoration projects in northern Illinois. Also has assisted with the design phase of restoration projects. Recent projects include Pollinator Hubs and 1700 Glenview Road Restoration in Glenview, Goose Creek Parcel in Bloomington, Nord Parcel Greenway in Bloomington, Flint Creek in Barrington and Woods Creek Reaches 6-8 in Algonquin.
- **15+ Tree Surveys:** Ecologist conducting tree surveys in northeast Illinois. Many of these tree surveys are related to civil engineering projects but also for stream and wetland restoration projects.
- **40+ Environmental Permits:** Prepared environmental permit applications and successfully received approval from various agencies and municipalities to move forward with construction projects.

- **10+ Solar Farm Projects:** Environmental Consultant for large-scale solar farm projects. Assisted in wetland delineations, permitting, tree surveys, threatened and endangered species surveys, and County meetings.
- **5+ Construction Oversight Projects:** Ecologist on-site overseeing construction restoration projects. Recent projects include Dixie Creek, Woods Creek Reach 6-7, and Meadows Subdivision all in Algonquin, Salt Creek Restoration in Palatine, and Mahoney Creek Tributary and Detention in Batavia.
- **6+ Years of Ecological Stewardship and Construction:** Worked with ecological stewardship and construction crews on over 20 projects installing native seed, tree planting, and erosion control in northern Illinois. Also assisted with over 40 prescribed burns in Illinois and Wisconsin.

Various Municipalities

Wetland Delineations

Led and trained crew members on performing wetland delineations, servicing projects in Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Montana, and South Dakota. Mariah has spent over 500 hours delivering wetland and creek projects for Baxter & Woodman Natural Resources and private clients.

Glenview, IL

Pollinator Hub Design

Restoration Ecologist for the design of the restoration plan with pollinator native vegetation and native tree installation, along with the monitoring and maintenance requirements for three years. The entire project is about two acres and has been successfully constructed. Glenview received a grant from the ComED Green Region Program to convert turf grass to native vegetation at three pump house/reservoir locations.

Bloomington and Normal Water Reclamation District, IL

Nord Parcel Greenway

Restoration Ecologist conducting a natural resource inventory, stream assessment, and wetland analysis for the Nord Parcel in Bloomington. This parcel is a high-priority acquisition within the Sugar Creek Greenway Vision Plan. The completion of the natural resource inventory provided the District with potential on-site restoration and associated costs, which can help determine which grant programs can be utilized and pursued for future restoration. A restoration concept plan was created showing the current and target conditions of the parcel and was presented to the District to demonstrate the range of restoration opportunities and the potential impact on the property.

Bloomington and Normal Water Reclamation District, IL

Sugar Creek Greenway Vision Plan

Wetland Specialist working alongside Cecily Cunz and the District to develop the Sugar Creek Greenway – a connected conservation greenway corridor along Sugar Creek in McLean County. Project goals include identifying ways the greenway could serve as a nutrient sink for the District, a brief study of existing conditions within the Greenway project area, conducting a parcel prioritization process, determining potential restorations that could occur on each parcel, expanding McLean County's trail network and recreational opportunities, identifying potential connections to existing and planned trails, prioritizing parcels for acquisition and restoration, and identifying potential sources of funding available to create the Greenway.