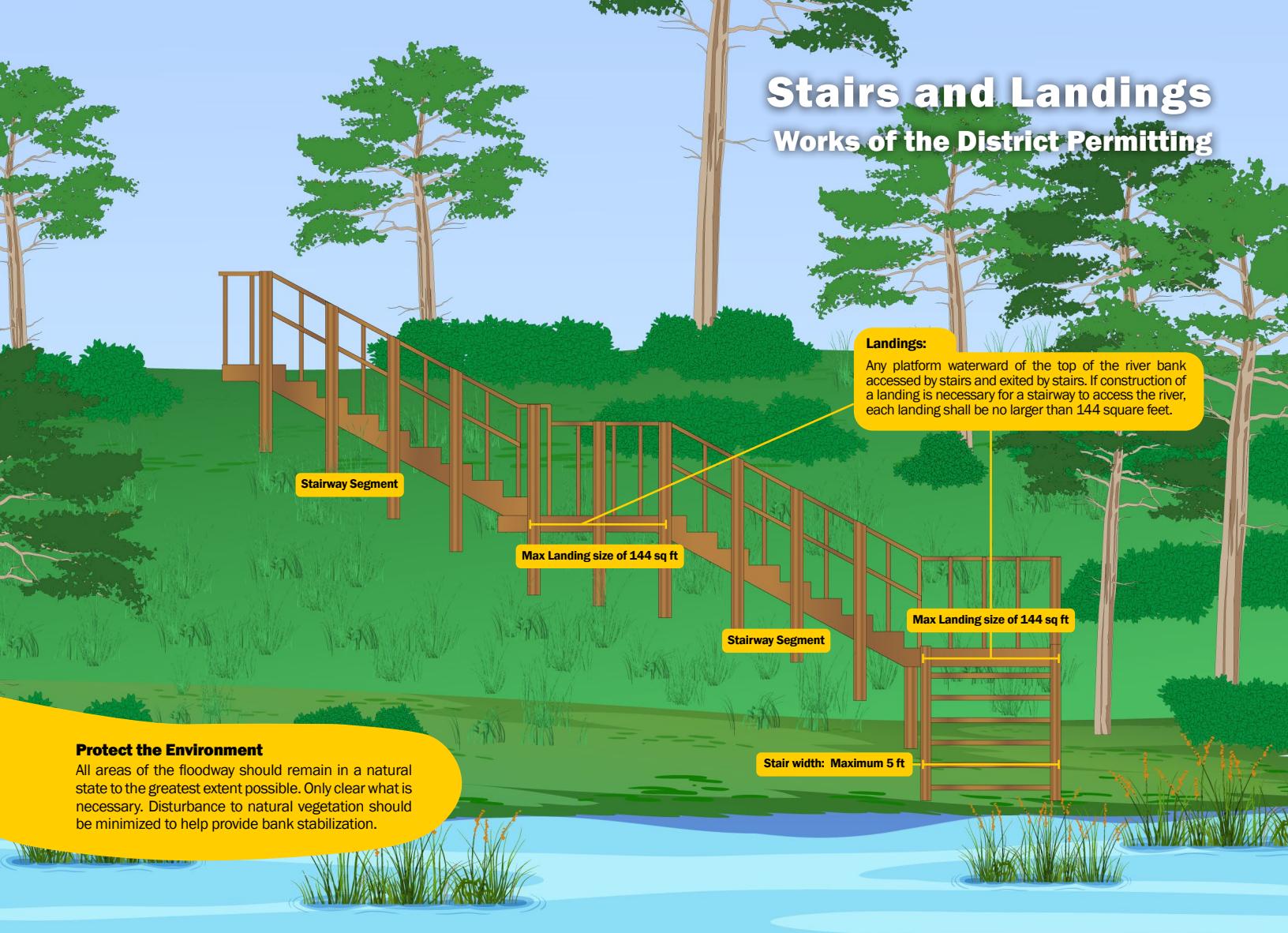


Stairs and Landings

Works of the District Permitting



Protect the Environment

All areas of the floodway should remain in a natural state to the greatest extent possible. Only clear what is necessary. Disturbance to natural vegetation should be minimized to help provide bank stabilization.

What materials can I use to build stairs and landings?

- o If the stairs and landings are not located in wetlands or other surface waters, there are no restrictions on the construction material.
- o If the stairs and/or landings are located in wetlands or other surface waters, the District recommends the use of pilings for construction.

Is there a limit to the number of stairs and/or landings I can construct on my property?

One stairway system per parcel is permissible to access the river. A property owner may construct a reasonable amount of stair segments and landings to reach the river with minimal impacts.

Do I need a WOD permit for stairs and landings?

Stairs are exempt from permitting as long as permitting thresholds have not been exceeded for all activities on the property. Typically, stairs and landings are combined with a deck and/or dock*, which do require permitting.

What is the top of the river bank?

The vertical point of a river bank where there is an abrupt change in slope observed when traveling waterward.

*If the stairs and landings are connected to a dock and proposed in or within 25 feet of wetlands, the height of walking surface above natural ground shall be elevated a minimum of 5 feet, and include handrails. They should not be used for commercial purposes or for boat access. They must be designed by an engineer and involve the services of an environmental consultant.

Works of the District

This guide was created to assist property owners with frequently asked questions (FAQs) about permitting requirements for stairs and landings waterward of the top of bank within Works of the District (WOD) floodways.

WOD refers to rules that are established by the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) for construction within the floodways of five rivers within the District boundaries: Alapaha, Aucilla, Withlacoochee, Santa Fe, and Suwannee.

Different permitting and/or fee requirements may apply if:

- o You would like to include additional structures with your permit;
- o There is already an existing District permit at your property;
- o Your proposed project impacts wetlands/surface waters, including areas with emergent aquatic vegetation.

Schedule a free pre-application meeting with District staff to discuss proposed activities and determine if an engineer and/or environmental consultant should be hired for the project.

Please note: This document is intended as a guide. Please refer to 40B-4, F.A.C., 62-330, F.A.C., 18-20, F.A.C., and 18-21 F.A.C. for complete information. A District permit does not eliminate the necessity to obtain any required federal, state, local, and special district authorizations prior to the start of any construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, removal, or abandonment authorized by a District permit. Please contact your federal, state, and local agencies for further guidance.

Please visit our website at www.mysuwanneeriver.com to learn more or email us at resourcemanagement@srwmd.org for all your permitting questions.

