

Wetland Series Introduction

Wetlands are a significant factor in the health and existence of other natural resources of the state, such as inland lakes, ground water, fisheries, wildlife, and the Great Salt Lake. Wetlands provide the following benefits:

- Flood and storm control by the hydrologic absorption and storage capacity of wetlands.
- Wildlife habitat by providing breeding, nesting, and feeding grounds and cover for many forms of wildlife, waterfowl, including migratory waterfowl, and rare, threatened, or endangered wildlife species.
- Protection of subsurface water resources and provision of valuable watersheds and recharging ground water supplies.
- Pollution treatment by serving as a biological and chemical oxidation basin.
- Erosion control by serving as a sedimentation area and filtering basin, absorbing silt and organic matter.
- Sources of nutrients in water food cycles and nursery grounds and sanctuaries for fish.

(State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality)

Wetland Definition:

Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. *(Loveland, Colorado)*



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Keywords:

absorbs flash floods, amphibians, bayou, biodiversity, bog, bulrushes, cattails, cooperative living habitats, dirt, duckweed, ecology, environment, fen, flora and fauna, fowl, geographical locations within which man and nature coexist and mutually prosper, groundwater, habitat, interface of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, marsh, marshland, mire, morass, muskeg, pondweed, quagmire, research, sand, sedges, slough, swampland, vegetation, water lilies, water purification