

So...just what are wetlands?

Wetlands are semi-aquatic plant communities that vary widely in species composition, size, and position in the landscape. All wetlands possess three essential features which collectively define a regulated wetland.

Hydrophytic vegetation... plants adapted to growing in soils that are periodically saturated or flooded. There are more than 1,900 wetland plant species, the presence of any of which in sufficient numbers may meet the hydrophytic vegetation criterion of regulated wetlands.

Hydric soils... soils that are saturated or flooded long enough during the growing season to develop a low oxygen condition in their upper part. The time required to create this condition may be as brief as 7 days during the growing season. Hydric soils are identified by such features as texture, extent of organic matter, and diagnostic color patterns.

Wetland hydrology... evidence of permanent or periodic soil wetness during the growing season sufficient to create low oxygen conditions. While wetland hydrology is the "driving force" that creates and sustains wetland soils and wetland plant communities, it is often the most difficult feature to verify.

Additional Services...

- Natural Resource Inventories
- Natural Resource Management Plans
- Comprehensive Planning and Zoning
- SEQR and NEPA Procedures
- Traffic Studies
- Historical and Archaeological Surveys
- Community Development Projects
- Environmental Monitoring
- Development Permitting
- Solid Waste Planning

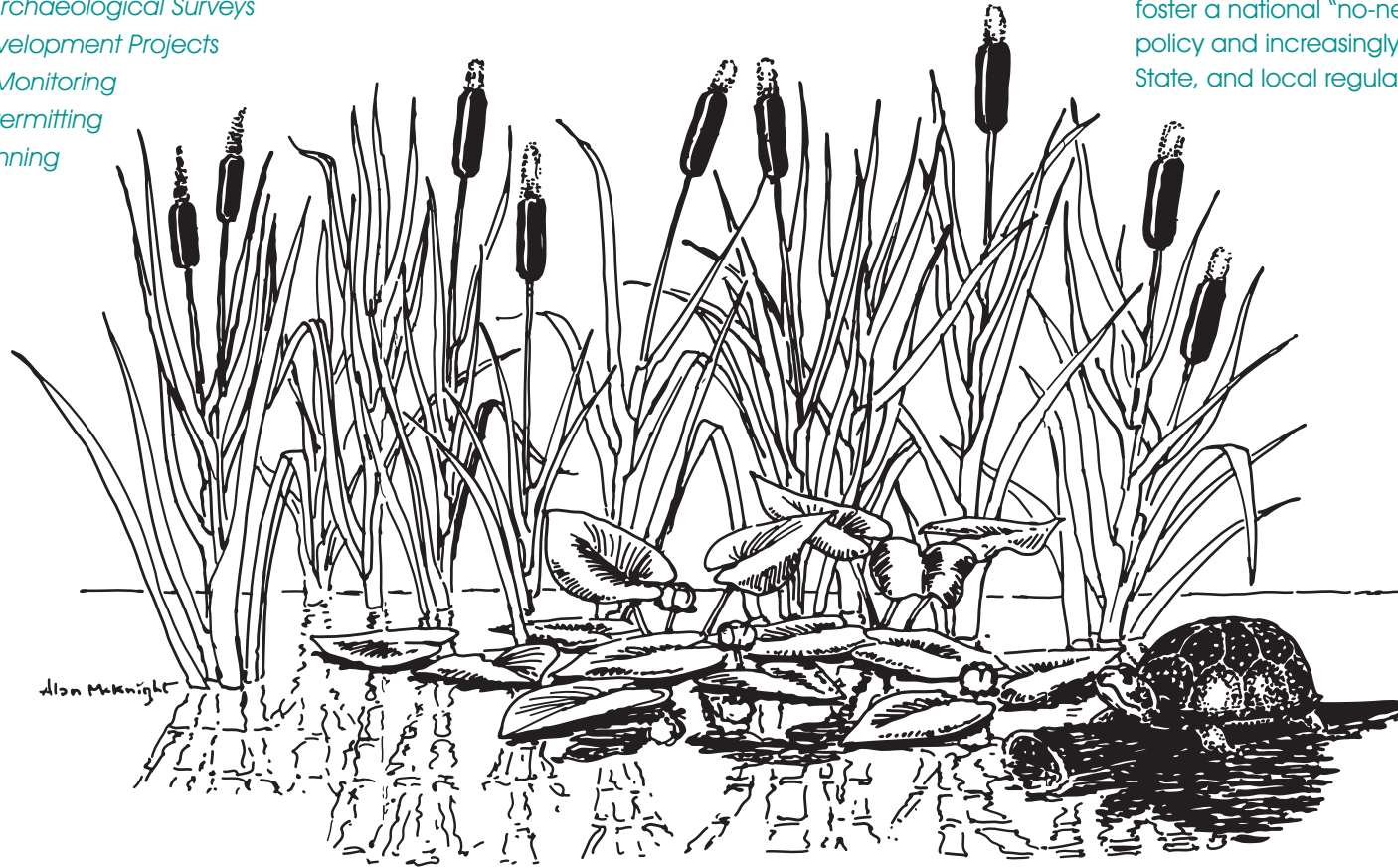
WETLANDS ARE...

...the most intensely regulated natural feature affecting land use and development... subject to ever-changing Federal, State, and local regulations and policies.

The cumulative effect of wetland losses on wildlife and water resources continues to foster a national "no-net-loss" wetlands policy and increasingly stringent Federal, State, and local regulation of wetlands.

While most of us can generally recognize "a wetland," did you know that...

- there are more than 40 different kinds of wetlands?
- some wet areas may not meet established wetland criteria, while other "dry" areas could be defined as regulated wetlands?
- some areas that contain wetland plants may not qualify as wetlands?
- certain activities impacting wetlands may be authorized by relatively expedient Nationwide Permits, while other activities will require a lengthy regulatory review?





How might wetlands affect development?

Wetlands regulations at Federal, State, and local levels pose significant limitations to land use planning and development that cannot be ignored.

- *Application procedures require an accurate delineation and documentation of all wetlands on development sites.*
- *Preparation of alternative plans to avoid, minimize, and mitigate development impacts on wetlands has become a standard requirement by wetland regulators.*
- *Obtaining permits for certain activities in or close to wetlands can be a complex expensive and time-consuming process.*
- *Failure to comply with wetland regulations can result in court action, stop work orders, fines, and enforced costly and time consuming restoration of wetlands.*

Wetlands in an ever-changing regulatory landscape...

Nationwide Permits (NWP) which authorize various activities affecting "waters of the United States, including wetlands," are often complex, difficult to interpret, and subject to regional conditions which, may vary from watershed-to-watershed. NWPs are also subject to periodic suspension, issuance, reissuance, and modification. Further, NWPs vary from time-to-time with respect to changing "thresholds of permitted activities" and pre-construction notification (PCN) requirements. Thus, detailed knowledge of the scope and current status of NWPs is critical to an accurate understanding of what types of permits may be required by different projects.

"The best way to protect the interests of landowners and developers, and to satisfy the concerns of planners and regulatory agencies, is to have accurate wetland delineations, wetland impact assessments, and suitable wetland mitigation plans prepared by experienced wetland specialists during project planning and design."



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How Matthew D. Rudikoff Associates, Inc. can help...

Our technical staff has extensive experience with wetlands and related issues. MDRA performs local, State, and Federal wetland delineations, and prepares a variety of assessments and reports on wetlands and related topics.

MDRA is thoroughly familiar with wetland permitting issues and the array of regulatory thresholds which can substantially slow a project or allow it to move forward in a timely manner.

MDRA provides the following services to public and private clients:

- *Delineate and inventory wetlands and other aquatic resources*
- *Assist in the design of site plans that work with wetlands to integrate and enhance the value of aquatic resources*
- *Streamline wetland and stream protection permit procedures for residential and non-residential proposals*
- *Interact with clients and regulatory agencies on a variety of wetland issues*
- *Clarify overlapping governmental regulations*
- *Confirm the accuracy of wetland mapping and delineations according to local, State, and Federal standards*

Services we provide...

- *Wetlands permits analyses for small-to-large projects which focus on the use of various expedient Nationwide Permits*
- *Local, State, and Federal wetland delineations, related reports and wetland permit applications*
- *Aquatic resources management plans*
- *Wetland ordinance preparation*
- *Biological inventories of wetlands, surface waters, and terrestrial habitats*
- *Wildlife management plans*
- *Vegetation management plans*
- *Assessments of wetland functions*
- *Wetland and surface water quality analyses*
- *Wetland impacts assessments*
- *Wetland restoration and creation plans*
- *Pond design and management plans*
- *Stream bank protection and restoration plans*
- *Habitat analyses and searches for rare, threatened, or endangered species of State and Federal concern*
- *Inspection and monitoring of commercial and residential developments for compliance with site protection requirements*

