



**Meridian Township**  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

P 517.853.4000  
F 517.853.4096

**Township Board:**

**Ronald J. Styka**  
*Township Supervisor*

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*Township Trustee*

**Frank L. Walsh**  
*Township Manager*

October 4, 2021

Dear Meridian Township Resident,

On behalf of the Township Board, Commissions, Staff and neighborhoods of Meridian Township, we invite you to join us in preserving and enhancing one of our community's greatest assets; our wetlands. You are receiving this letter because you have a wetland on or adjacent to your property.

Protecting wetlands is important for many reasons. Wetlands act like a sponge, protecting us from flooding. They also help recharge our groundwater/drinking water and provide other benefits such as protection of fish, wildlife, and pollinator habitats.

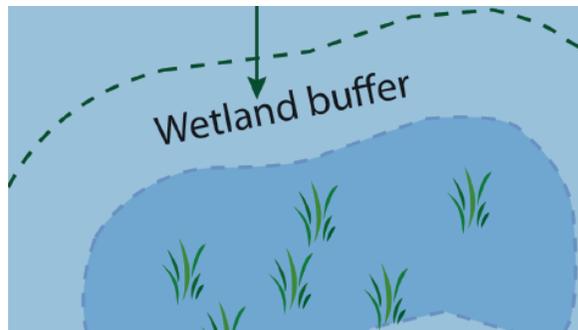
This letter and the enclosed brochure describe these benefits and current laws that may affect your property.

There are different types of wetlands and most are protected. Protected wetlands include:

1. Wetlands, equal to or greater than 1/4 acre and determined to be essential to the preservation of natural resources.
2. Wetlands contiguous to inland lakes, streams, rivers or ponds (or within 500 feet of the ordinary high water mark)\*
3. Wetlands, determined by the State of Michigan, are essential to the preservation of the natural resources of the State from pollution, impairment or destruction.

\* Unless determined by Michigan Department of Energy, Great Lakes, and the Environment (EGLE) that there is no surface or groundwater connection between the wetland and the water body.

A wetland buffer or natural vegetation strip is also protected by law. Wetland buffers/vegetation strips help minimize erosion, stabilize streambanks and wetland edges, protect water quality, preserve wildlife habitat and protect from flooding.



The wetland buffer is typically 20-50 feet wide, depending upon the size and location of wetland, and is treated the same as the wetland.

There are some things that you can and can't do in a protected wetland and wetland buffer/vegetation strip. For example:

<b>Do...</b>	<b>Don't...</b>
Preserve natural ground cover to the fullest extent feasible. Trees, shrubs, and native plants have deep roots which help protect your property from flooding.	Do not alter existing soil and organic matter. Please do not add or remove soil, stones, yard debris, etc. Do not add fertilizers or pesticides.
Plant perennial native species, especially on exposed soil and steep slopes. Lawns have shallow roots and do not protect from flooding.	Do not mow or clear cut more than 10% of the length of the buffer strip. A lawn is not considered a natural vegetation strip.
Minimize pruning and removal of trees, shrubs, and ground covers unless providing access or views to water features, removing hazardous or nuisance exotic vegetation, or improving wildlife habitat.	Do not remove stumps. Live root systems must be maintained to provide erosion control.  Do not build structures or grade the soil without contacting the Planning Department.

We hope that this information is helpful in understanding the importance and benefits of our wetlands in reducing flooding, protecting our water resources, and preserving the environmental quality and natural beauty of our community.

If you'd like to learn more about wetlands, natural landscaping, rain/pollinator gardens, land preserves, native plant sales, or the Meridian Conservation Corps, please visit our website at [www.meridian.mi.us/GreenMeridian](http://www.meridian.mi.us/GreenMeridian). For code or construction-related questions, please contact the Community Planning & Development Department at 517.853.4500.

Thank you,



John Sarver, Chair  
Meridian Environmental Commission