

## Wetlands in the Township

Most people are familiar with the cattail or lily pad wetland found in areas with standing water, but wetlands can also be grassy meadows, shrubby fields, or mature forests.

Many wetland areas have only a high ground water table and standing water may not be visible.

Over 25% of Meridian Township is covered in wetlands (5778 of 20,160 acres), making wetland stewardship an important responsibility and opportunity in every neighborhood.

The Township has a wetland ordinance that protects wetlands as small as 1/4 acre. This ordinance requires a 20-foot natural vegetation buffer.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, over 50% of Michigan's original wetlands have been drained or filled (57% in Meridian), thereby making the protection of remaining wetlands that much more important.

### *Want to help protect our wetlands?*

Volunteer with the Meridian Township Conservation Corps! Call Emma Campbell at 517.853.4614 for more info!

Also visit [MyWatersheds.org](http://MyWatersheds.org), [MGROW.org](http://MGROW.org), and [Meridian.mi.us/gogreen](http://Meridian.mi.us/gogreen) to learn more about local water protection efforts.

Your actions can help keep our water clean, reduce pollution, and prevent flooding!



*Help keep Meridian Township beautiful!  
Find out how and spread the word!*

[Meridian.mi.us/GoGreen](http://Meridian.mi.us/GoGreen)  
[www.MyWatersheds.org](http://www.MyWatersheds.org)



**POLLUTION  
ISN'T PRETTY.**



## Protect Our Wetlands

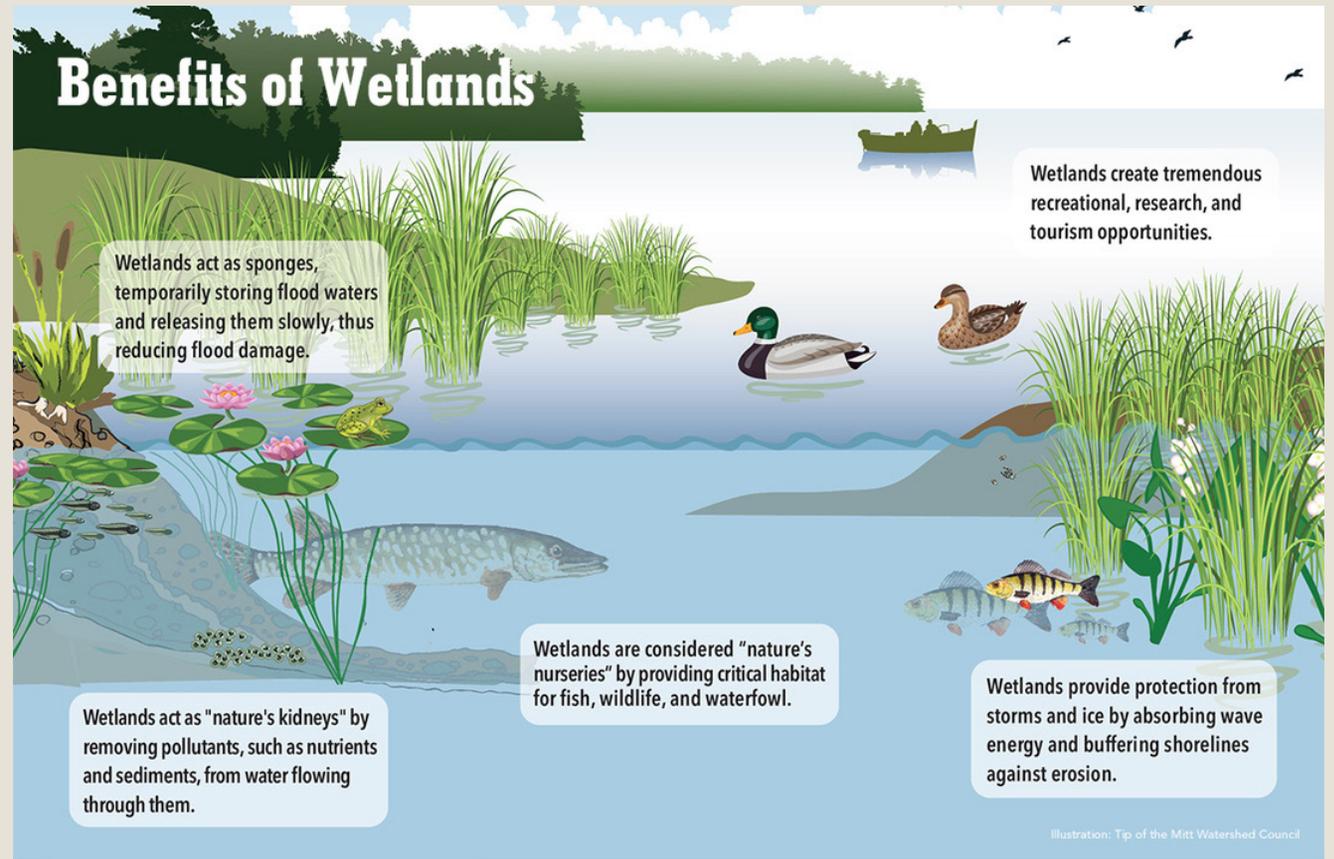
*Your actions can help  
keep our water clean*



## Wetland Services

Wetlands are a critical part of our environment helping reduce flooding, clean water, provide habitat, and offer other benefits:

- Reduction of mosquito populations – a healthy, functioning wetland can actually reduce mosquito populations by providing proper habitat for the natural enemies of mosquitos and by preventing or reducing flooding.
- Water storage – wetlands act as a sponge to absorb water during floods and slowly release the water back during droughts. They also slow down the water's momentum, decrease erosion, and help recharge our groundwater.
- Water filtration – wetlands naturally filter pollutants like sediments and nutrients, improving water quality.
- Habitat and nurseries– wetlands are diverse ecosystems that are home to a wide variety of plants and animals.
- Recreation – wetlands offer opportunities to hike, birdwatch, canoe and enjoy nature along with educational opportunities for youth and adults alike.



## Together We Can Protect Our Wetlands

- Do plant native vegetation on your property and remove invasive species.
- Do not put yard waste or "fill material" (soil/ dirt, stones, mulch, etc.) in wetlands or within the 20 foot natural vegetation buffer.
- Do protect the required 20 foot natural vegetation buffer around the wetlands.
- Contact the Planning Department at 517.853.4560 if you are planning construction or landscaping within 40 feet of a wetland.
- Do not remove trees, stumps, roots and other natural vegetation from the wetlands or buffer.
- Contact Public Works at 517.853.4440 if you are moving dirt or disturbing soil. A Soil Erosion/ Sedimentation Control Permit may be required.
- Do not mow in the wetlands or within the buffer.
- Inform neighbors, developers, and state and local decision-makers about the importance of wetlands.
- Do not use chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides in the wetlands and the 20 foot natural vegetation buffer. For information about invasive species removal, call 517.853.4614.