Geauga County Hydric Soils

Ca	*Canadice silt loam*
Cf	*Carlisle muck, ponded*
Da	*Damascus silt loam*
Ho	*Holly silt loam*
Sb	*Sebring silt loam*
Sf	*Sheffield silt loam*
Wa	*Wabasha silty clay loam, ponded*
Wc	*Wallkill silt loam, ponded*
Wt	*Willette muck, ponded*

***Non Hydric Soils with Hydric Inclusions*

BgB	*Bogart loam, 2-6 % slopes*
BrF	*Brecksville silt loam, 25-70 % slopes*
CcA	*Caneadea silt loam, 0-2 % slopes*
CcB	*Caneadea silt loam, 2-6 % slopes*
CyD	*Chili-Oshtemo complex, 6-18 % slopes*
DrA	*Darien silt loam, 0-2 % slopes*
FcA	*Fitchville silt loam, 0-2 % slopes*
FcB	*Fitchville silt loam, 2-6 % slopes*
JtA	*Jimtown silt loam, 0-3 % slopes*
MgA	*Mahoning silt loam, 0-2 % slopes*
MgB	*Mahoning silt loam, 2-6 % slopes*
MsA	*Mahoning silt loam (shale), 0-2 % slopes*
MsB	*Mahoning silt loam (shale), 2-6 % slopes*
MtA	*Mitiwanga silt loam, 0-3 % slopes*
Or	*Orville silt loam, frequently flooded*
PsA	*Platea silt loam, 0-2 % slopes*
PsB	*Platea silt loam, 2-6 % slopes*
ReA	*Ravenna silt loam, 0-2 % slopes*
ReB	*Ravenna silt loam, 2-6 % slopes*
WbA	*Wadsworth silt loam, 0-2 % slopes*
WbB	*Wadsworth silt loam, 2-6 % slopes*

*****These soils are not hydric as a map unit but have unmapped depression areas that are potential wetlands.***

To confirm a soil is hydric, landowners may employ a soil scientist to verify the map group and if the soil on a particular site fits the hydric soil definition. A wetland consultant may also be called to complete a delineation or an evaluation of a site for the presence of wetlands. The Geauga SWCD has a list of these consultants.

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Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District

14269 Claridon-Troy Rd.
PO Box 410
Burton, Ohio 44021

440-834-1122
Fax: 440-834-0316
gswcd@geaugaswcd.com
website: www.geaugaswcd.com

Geauga SWCD Mission:
"To conserve, protect, and enhance the resources of Geauga County by providing leadership, education, and assistance to all."

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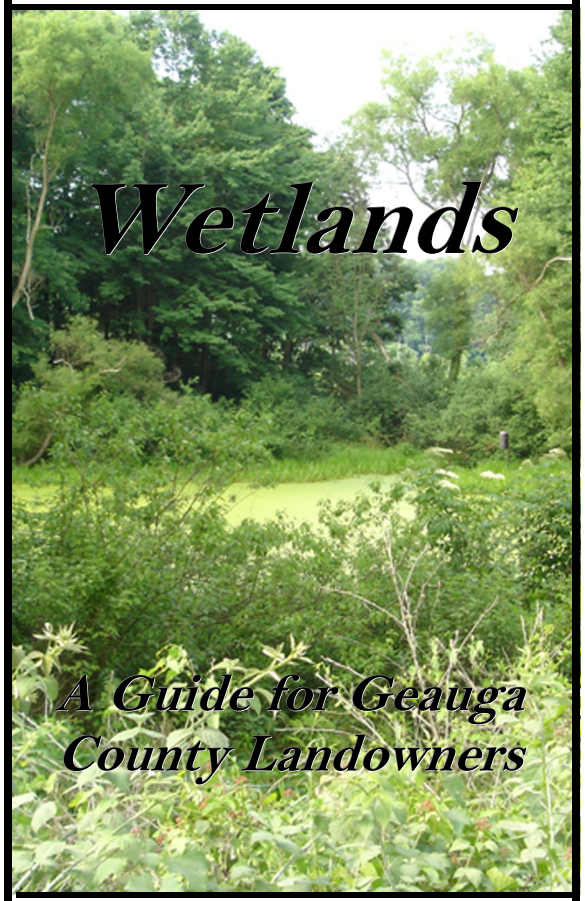
Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District



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What is a Wetland?

Wetlands are identified as having a predominance of hydric soils, saturation by surface and/or groundwater, and a presence of hydrophytic vegetation.

What are the Rules Regarding Wetlands?

Certain provisions of The Clean Water Act require permits for any work affecting wetland areas including dredging, filling, or drainage projects. A 401 Ohio Environmental Protection Agency permit is required for those wetlands which are isolated from streams and rivers. Any disturbance to a wetland which is connected to either a stream or river requires a 404 permit issued by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers also. ***Activities of disturbance in a wetland include, but are not limited to:***

- *Placement of fill and/or dredged material*
- *Ditching activities when the excavated material is sidecast*
- *Levee and dike construction*
- *Mechanized land clearing*
- *Land leveling*
- *Most road construction*
- *Dam construction*

If any alterations are going to be made in or around a potential wetland area, contact both the U.S Army Corps of Engineers at either ***716-879-4330*** *or the local field office at* ***440-437-5841****, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at* ***330-963-1100.*** *Agricultural producers should contact the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at* ***888-217-3947*** *for more information on agricultural*

How Do You Know if a Wetland is on Your Property?

A wetland can vary in type and degree of wetness. Some are very easy to recognize throughout the year, and others exist due to the saturation of the soil by groundwater and can be extremely difficult to identify. Wetlands can be identified by the confirmation of three criteria: ***hydrophytic vegetation***, ***hydric soils***, and ***hydrology***.

Three Indicators: Vegetation, Soils, and Hydrology

Vegetation Indicators

Photo courtesy of Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Plants found in wetland areas are called *hydrophytic vegetation*. These plants have been classified by their frequency of occurrence in wetlands.

Examples of hydrophytic vegetation include: cattails, bulrushes, sedges, sphagnum moss, willows, baldcypress, cordgrass, american elm, red and silver maple, and tupelo gum.

Generally, wetland classification requires that more than 50% of the plants found on the site are predominantly (>50% probability) associated with wetlands.

Soil Indicators

Photo courtesy of U.S Army Corps of Engineers

Wetlands soils are called *hydric soils*. Hydric soils are soils that are saturated, flooded, or ponded for a long enough time period during the growing season that anaerobic conditions develop in the upper part of the soil. Further criteria for hydric soils is available from the Geauga SWCD or NRCS office.

The following instances may indicate a hydric soil:

- Soil has a layer of partially decomposed plant material on the surface
- Soil color below the surface is predominantly grayish, with or without orange or brown areas
- Soil has a "rotten egg" odor
- Soil is very sandy and has a black surface layer, or appears blotchy and has dark streaks of organic matter

The Geauga SWCD utilizes the Geauga County Soil Survey and Geographical Information System (GIS) maps to verify hydric soils and their location within the county. Technical assistance is available from District staff in using these resources to identify potential hydric soils.

Hydrology Indicators

Photo courtesy of U.S Army Corps of Engineers

Wetland hydrology is the permanent or periodic inundation or prolonged soil saturation sufficient to create anaerobic conditions in the soil. There are hydrologic indicators that can be observed providing evidence of wetlands:

- Standing or flowing water is observed on the area during growing season, or soils appears to be waterlogged
- Watermarks are present on trees indicating the approximate depth of standing or flowing water
- Drift lines or small piles of debris deposited by flowing water
- Thin layers of sediment, coating leaves and other objects on the ground
- Plant roots have rust-colored coatings or soil areas around them

If any of the above wetland indicators are observed, assistance from both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is advised before disturbing wetlands areas.

The Geauga County Soil Survey and the Geographical Information System (GIS) are excellent resources available from the Geauga SWCD. The District also has the U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Wetlands Inventory Maps as a general guideline available for public use. Call the Geauga SWCD at ***440-834-1122*** *for this and other information.*