



# Wetlands

## What are they?

Wetlands are areas that are frequently or permanently saturated with water such as marshes, swamps, bogs, or other similar lands. Wetlands may be naturally present or intentionally created. Wetland systems and boundaries can change over time.

There are wetlands throughout Tacoma and many still need to be identified.

## Why do we value them?



Wetlands help to maintain water quality because they intercept run off and can remove contaminants.



Wetlands are an important part of the water cycle and help to minimize flooding and erosion. They also help with groundwater recharge.



Wetlands provide good fish and wildlife habitat.





## How do we protect them?

- Identify and classify wetlands consistent with best available science.
- Provide adequately sized buffers filled with native vegetation.
- Control stormwater flows in and around the wetland.
- Preserve and enhance wildlife habitat in and around wetlands.
- Strategically placing development to avoid impacts
- Apply mitigation sequencing which prioritizes avoiding or minimizing impacts before compensating for impacts.

## What changes are needed?

- The update will reflect accepted standards and best practices for classification, buffer width systems, mitigation, and other standards.
- Update regulation to achieve no net loss of functions and values.
- For complete list: [Tacoma.gov/CriticalAreas](https://Tacoma.gov/CriticalAreas)

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