

What are Wetlands?

Wetlands, also known as bog, swamp, or marsh, is land where water covers the soil or is present either at or near the soil's surface all year or for varying periods during the year, including during the growing season. Wetlands may support both aquatic and terrestrial species. Wetlands provide benefits such as flood and storm control, wildlife habitat, erosion control, and pollution treatment. Healthy wetlands create fish and wildlife habitats, protect water quality, provide flood control, prevent erosion, and add recreational and scenic value.

Throughout Michigan, people take pride in the quality of the environment and enjoy outdoor activities year-round, and wetlands serve a vital role.

For more information about wetlands:
<https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/Water-Resources/Wetlands>

Wetlands in Fabius Township:
<https://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/wetlands>



About Us

Fabius Township's Environmental and Wetland Protection Advisory Committee (EWPAC) works to advise the Planning & Zoning boards, Drain Commissioner's office, and other local government institutions on questions regarding environmental management within the township.

Fabius Township has wonderful natural resources, including many scenic lakes and valuable wetland areas. More than 1000 properties in the township are adjacent to some type of designated wetland. We are committed to protecting these wetlands and encourage our neighbors to join us.

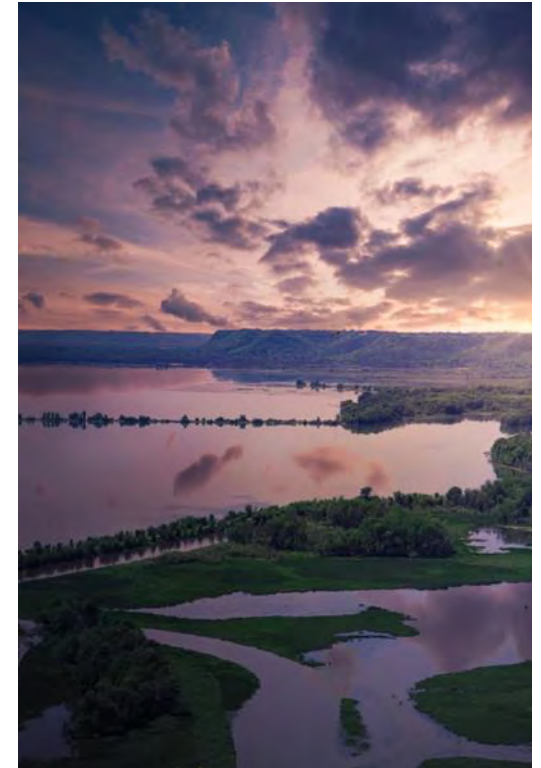
Additional Resources

Michigan Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)
<https://www.michigan.gov/egle/>

Wetlands Map viewer:
<https://www.michigan.gov/egle/maps-data/wetlands-map-viewer>
Wetland Permit information:
<https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/water-resources/wetlands/permits>

Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations
www.mymlsa.org

Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
www.swmlc.org



Environmental and Wetlands Protection Advisory Committee



Contact us at:
www.fabiustownship.org
wetlands@fabiustownship.org

Shoreline Hardening, which includes seawalls, interrupts natural shoreline processes and reduces the natural habitat for fish and wildlife. These shoreline protection structures provide a hard reflection of waves bouncing off of vertical walls, can result in increased turbidity, increase erosion on the adjacent property beyond the base of a seawall and reduce filtration of runoff from the land into the estuary. Hardening also affects the ability of aquatic animals and plants to inhabit their natural habitat, thus affecting the overall ecosystem. **Soft Shoreline**, bioengineering, or green engineering stabilizes lake shorelines, prevents erosion, and protects and enhances fish and wildlife habitat. The purpose of soft shorelines is to provide a natural transition from open water to upland.

For more information about shoreline protection:
<https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/Water-Resources/inland-lakes-and-streams/shoreline-protection>

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/63d101f3984d4c4e8720364d0fdd4431>



Examples of approved retaining walls

Invasive species are species that is not native and whose introduction causes harm or is likely to cause harm to the environment or human health. Invasive species cause harm when they out-compete native species by reproducing and spreading rapidly in areas where they have no natural predators and changing the balance of the ecosystem.

For more information about reporting and identifying invasive species:
<https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/id-report>



Invasive plants: Purple Loosestrife (left) and Phragmites (right)

Runoff occurs when there is an excess of liquid when there is more liquid than can be absorbed by the ground. The excess liquid flows across the land and into nearby creeks, streams, or ponds. Runoff is a natural process often resulting from human activity, such as asphalt driveways or clearing natural vegetation too close to the shoreline.



Shoreline Preservation

If you are planning any type of construction activity in a wetland area, you will most likely require a permit from EGLE. Simple things you can do to enhance the value of your waterfront or wetland property:

- If you are building or repairing a seawall, install stone or riprap along the water's edge to prevent erosion; if possible, use natural landscaping materials instead of steel or concrete.
- Consider leaving a 10 ft buffer strip along the water's edge. Don't maintain a lawn; instead, allow natural vegetation to grow. This will improve the fish habitat near the water's edge and may help to keep geese out of your yard.
- Don't use any fertilizers or pesticides within 25 ft of the water.
- Make sure your septic system is functioning correctly.

For more information about shoreline preservation:
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