

Rural Stormwater Management and Wetland Creation

Wetlands are areas that permanently or temporarily hold water. They are often shallow pockets of water and have water-tolerant plants. Seasonal wetlands can form in low-lying areas or land with poor drainage during winter snowmelt or heavy rainfall. Wetlands can be restored or new wetlands created in areas where they would occur naturally. Water levels in these wetlands vary seasonally and annually, depending on the weather conditions.



Wetland Benefits

More and more, people recognize the important role of wetlands as a nature-based approach to reduce flooding and drought, improve water quality, and provide habitat.

- Wetlands collect runoff from fields and allow it to infiltrate. This filters out sediment and nutrients. This helps to keep pollutants carried by runoff out of watercourses.
- Wetlands reduce unwanted flooding and soil erosion by providing water storage.
- Wetlands create habitat for all kinds of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, including pollinator species.
- Wetlands may act as a groundwater recharge area.



Wetland Design

- The design of a wetland is an important step, to ensure it both functions properly and meets your goals and objectives. Contact staff, delivering the Huron County Clean Water Project, to learn more about wetland design and function.
- Excavation is completed according to the design. This ensures proper depths, slopes, shape, and wetland size meet the needs of the watershed area and provide easy access and exit for habitat and wildlife. It is important for wetlands to provide relatively shallow depths to collect surface-water runoff. If a wetland is dug too deep it could affect the groundwater source below.



BEFORE – A sheep pasture was separated from the rest of the pastures by a municipal drain. The landowner retired the area and planted trees. In one area the trees didn't grow well due to wet soils and seasonal flooding.



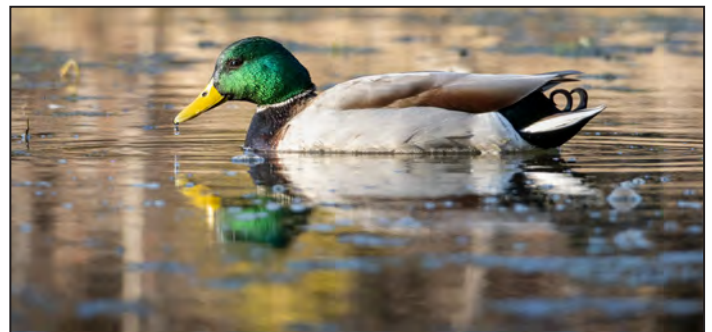
AFTER – In 2014, a small open water wetland was dug, in the wet area, and planted with plants and shrubs. The wetland provides water storage and increased habitat for waterfowl and other animals.

Wetlands vs. Ponds

- Wetlands are not considered ponds, as they have fluctuating water levels and may be dry during certain periods of the year depending on precipitation events.
- Wetlands have relatively shallow depths (<2 m), in order to collect, store and infiltrate surface-water runoff, without interfering with the groundwater supply.
- Although wetlands are visually attractive, they are not created for aesthetic purposes. They are meant to be a naturalized area, with a thick vegetative buffer to collect and filter surface runoff, reduce flooding and soil erosion, protect water quality, and provide habitat.

Did you know?

Through Huron Clean Water Project, your wetland creation project may also be eligible for the Wetland Retirement Incentive Program payment!
Contact staff to find out more.



Call us about wetland restoration on your property

To find out more:

Huron Clean Water Project staff are available to work with you to plan and design your project. To learn more contact Ausable Bayfield or Maitland Valley stewardship staff. Details are below.



Call us at **519-235-2610** or **519-335-3557** or visit our websites to find out more:
HuronCleanWaterProject.ca • abca.ca • mvca.on.ca