

Working in Wetlands

The Pike County Conservation District has a signed delegation agreement with the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to administer parts of the Chapter 105 Waterways and Wetlands program.

State and/or federal permits are required to construct these in wetlands:

- Bridges
- Walkways to lake access
- Docks
- Roads
- Levees

Alteration of any wetland area along streams, lakes, or ponds also **requires permits**.

Planning on working in or near wetlands? **Contact the District first.**

Visit our website or contact us for permit applications or more information.

Ways to Conserve Wetlands

Everyone can take some simple actions to help keep our wetlands and ecosystems healthy:

- **Identify wetlands on your property** with a wetland delineation.
- **Maintain buffers around wetlands** to minimize impacts when developing or improving a nearby site
- **Plant native species** like Swamp Milkweed or Cardinal Flower near wetlands. Keep an eye out for invasive species like Purple Loosestrife!
- **Limit fertilizer, herbicide, and pesticide use** as these chemicals can travel into wetlands with stormwater.
- **Use phosphate-free laundry and dishwasher detergents** to limit algae growth in our wetlands.
- **Support incorporating wetland protections** in your community association or municipality's comprehensive plans and community codes.



Pike County
Conservation District

556 Route 402
Hawley, PA 18428

570-226-8220

pikecd@pikepa.org



pikeconservation.org

Wonderful Wetlands



Pike County
Conservation District

What Makes It a Wetland?

Wherever they're found, wetlands all have the following characteristics in common: **wetland hydrology, soils, and vegetation.**

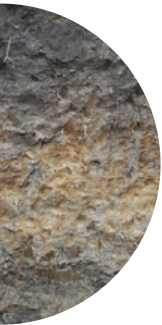
Wetland Hydrology:

- Water is present at or near the surface for extended periods of time.
- It doesn't have to be wet all year or even every year.



Soils:

- Soils show evidence of saturation (called hydric soils).
- Peat, muck, and lightly-colored iron depletions and orange iron deposits (called redoximorphic features) can be indicators.



Vegetation:

- Plants adapted to wet and low oxygen environments (called hydrophytic vegetation)
- Carnivorous plants like bladderworts and pitcher plants are common in bogs.



Am I in a Wetland?

You can look for common wetland characteristics to determine if you're in a wetland, even when the ground isn't wet.

- **Signs of aquatic life** like snail shells, salamander eggs, and caddisfly cases
- **Dark organic soils** at the surface
- **Grey leaves** that have been submerged in water
- **Rotten egg smell** indicating hydrogen sulfide released with plant decomposition in soil
- **Common wetland vegetation** includes Skunk Cabbage, Common Buttonbush, Sphagnum Moss, and Marsh Marigold
- **Watermarks** or water-carried debris at tree bases

Wetland
map
symbol!



***A wetland delineation is required to officially identify and determine wetland boundaries. Contact the District, US Army Corps of Engineers, PA DEP, or a private consultant to learn more.**

Did you know?

Many semi-aquatic animals like frogs and salamanders lay their eggs in seasonal (vernal) pools that only hold water for a period of time.

Seasonal pools can't support fish, which means that the eggs and young of other wildlife can avoid fish predation in these ecosystems.

Wetlands benefit our community!

Flood Protection

Wetlands act like a sponge, retaining large volumes of water that could otherwise inundate our properties and infrastructure.



Water Filtration

Vegetation in wetlands trap many pollutants, including sediment, chemicals, and fertilizers, before they enter ground and surface waters.

Carbon Sequestration

The low oxygen in wetlands slows decomposition of organic matter, storing carbon in the ground.

Groundwater Recharge

Wetlands are connected to underground aquifers and recharge the groundwater supply.

Wildlife Habitat

Many species call wetlands home. Wetlands have nearly as much biodiversity as rainforests and coral reefs!

