

Wetlands

Marshes



What is a wetland?

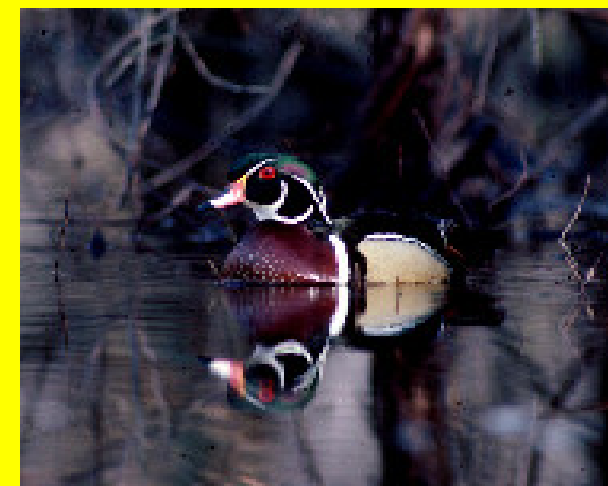
Bog, slough, swamp, marsh, wetland-for most of us, those words mean a peaceful pond with cattails, water lilies, waterfowl and frogs. That's accurate for some wetlands, but not all. Some may have visible surface water only a few weeks each year. Each type of wetland is unique.

Wetlands provide a permanent or seasonal home

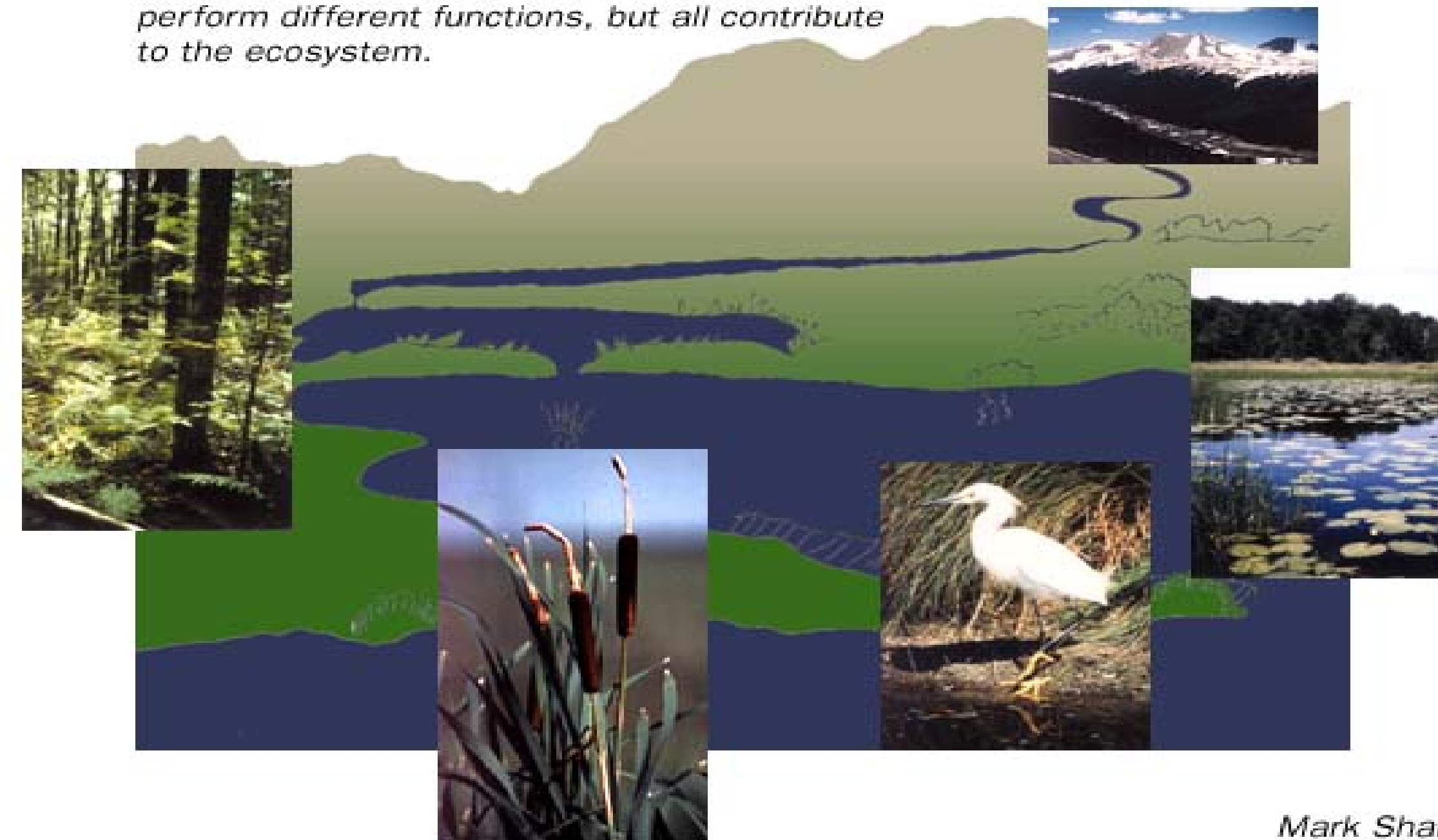


Did you know?

Stormwater can reach wetlands without any pre-treatment. This means lawn and garden chemicals, sediments, pet wastes, fertilizer and other types of contaminants can be carried by rain water to the wetland where it can harm plants and animals.



As water, sediments, and nutrients move through the watershed, different wetlands perform different functions, but all contribute to the ecosystem.



Mark Sharp

Wetlands are valued for many reasons

- . Improving water quality
- . Attenuating floodwater
- . Recharging ground water
- . Providing wildlife habitat and open space
- . Presenting educational and recreational opportunities



Open Water Wetlands



How can you make a difference?

Find out if wetlands exist near your home. Learn more about them. Keep stormwater runoff clean:

- . Pick up pet waste
- . Use lawn chemicals sparingly
- . Use Phosphorous-free fertilizer
- . Direct down spouts away from hard surfaces
- . Plant rain gardens to receive run-off from your roof
- . Keep chemicals, debris, yard waste off hard surfaces

Swamps

