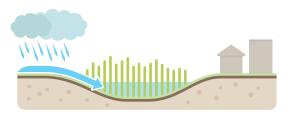
# North Carolina Wetlands **Functions & Benefits**



#### FUN

Wetlands are a great place for recreation. People like to visit wetlands to fish, boat, hunt, hike, camp, birdwatch, take pictures, and relax.



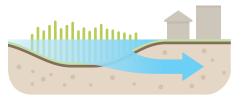
## **FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL**

Wetlands give rainwater a place to go—they hold water from heavy rain events and help prevent flooding in nearby areas. Wetlands slow down soil erosion by slowing the speed of the water passing through.

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#### **CLEAN WATER**

Wetlands help clean the water that passes through them before it reaches streams, rivers, estuaries, and the ocean. In North Carolina, many cities and towns get their drinking water from rivers.



### WATER SUPPLY

Wetlands slowly release water after filling up, continuing to provide water to surrounding areas in dry conditions.

# **MIGRATION REST AREA**

Wetlands provide important resting locations for migrating birds like tundra swans, songbirds, and more!

## HABITAT

Wetlands are homes, or habitats, for a wide variety of plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds, and mammals.

# FOOD

Wetlands are a great source of food production. Harvest of fish and shellfish that rely on wetlands produced 55 million dollars in North Carolina in 2016.



#### www.ncwetlands.org Produced by the NC Division of Water Resources with funding from US Environmental Protection Agency.