



FACTSHEET GLOSSARY of WETLAND TERMS

Adaptations: Changes or a series of changes

→ *Wetland Connection:* Changes to the normal anatomy or physiology of an organism to help it grow better in different conditions

Anaerobic: An absence of oxygen, or without oxygen

→ *Wetland Connection:* Wetland soil is anaerobic, which hydrophytes and anaerobic bacteria can tolerate.

Conductivity Meter: A tool used to measure the amount of salt in water, using the electricity conducted by salt.

Ecosystem Service: Free benefits that humans reap from natural systems, like flood prevention and pollination, that we would have to pay a lot of money for if the systems didn't exist

Ephemeral: Lasting for a short time, or temporary

→ *Wetland Connection:* Ephemeral pools are formed seasonally, allowing amphibians to lay their eggs and young to mature before the pools dry out.

Eroded/Erosion: The breaking down of rocks into smaller pieces by natural forces (wind, rain, ice, heat, snow, etc.)

Evapotranspiration: Water reentering the atmosphere through the combination of evaporation from the soil and transpiration of plants

Humus: Dead plant matter in the soil

Hydric Soil: Soil that is permanently or occasionally saturated by water

Hydrologic Indicator: A feature in a natural area that indicates water is or was present; wetland assessors use hydrologic indicators as a way of determining if an area is a wetland

Hydroperiod: The seasonal patterns of water levels.

→ *Wetland Connection:* The span of time during which wetland soils are saturated or inundated (covered) by water.

Hydrophytes: Water-loving plants that can live with their roots in water

Hypertrophied: Enlarged

Lenticels: Pores that are used for exchanging gases with the atmosphere to provide oxygen to the plant; found on woody plants like shrubs and trees

Mottling (in soil): A feature in wetland soil that shows small red/rust colored splotches in the soil, indicating a drying out period where some oxygen returns to the soil and allows iron in the soil to rust

Muck: A fine particle soil that is primarily made up of organic material, may feel slimy to the touch

Peat: Dark, compact soil composed primarily of dead, partially decayed plant material

Salinity: Saltiness, or amount of salt dissolved in a body of water

Saturation: A state that occurs when no more of something can be absorbed

→ *Wetland Connection:* A period or length of time where the spaces between soil particles are filled with water; there is a high concentration of surface water.

Sediment: Tiny particles of fossil or rock material that are transported from a location and deposited elsewhere by rain, wind, snow, or ice.