



NORTH CAROLINA Wetlands

Diverse

The variety of wetland types creates habitat diversity across the state.



Bog

STATEWIDE MOUNTAIN

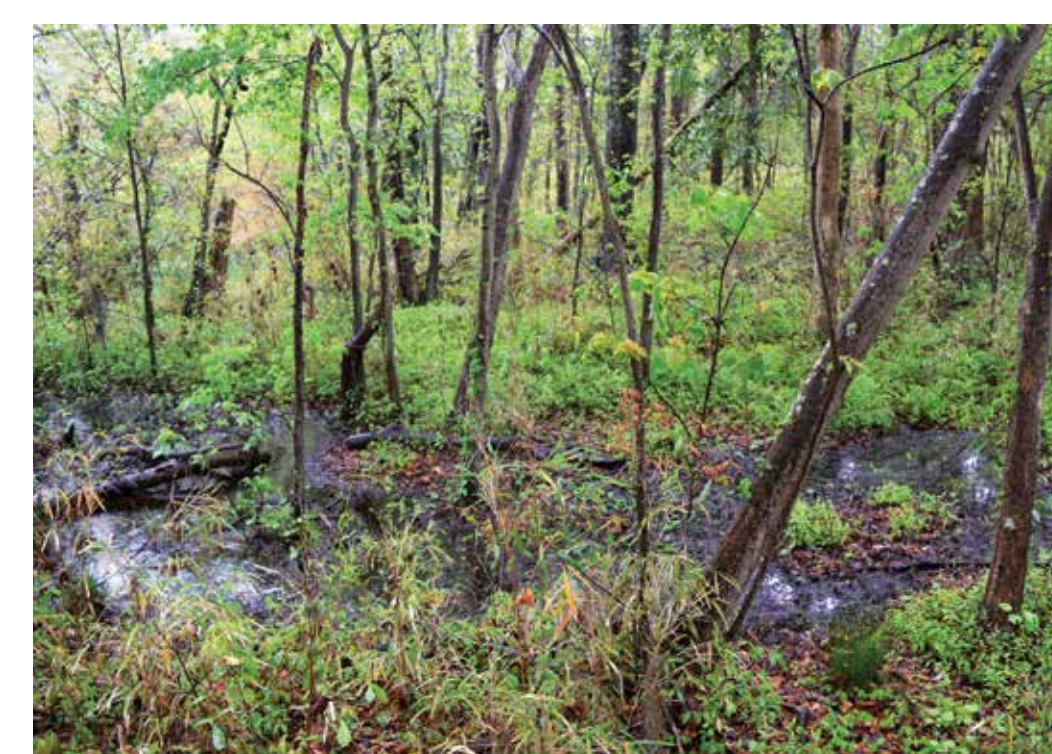
Bogs are found in the state's mountain region in relatively flat spaces at the base of slopes or mountains. Long-term saturation makes suitable habitat for a range of non-woody plants, particularly sphagnum moss and pitcher plants.



Riverine Forest Wetland

STATEWIDE

Riverine forests can include swamps, bottomland hardwoods, and floodplain pools where flooding from a nearby stream or river is an important water source. Vegetation is mixed, with large trees and small shrubs and herbs. Riverine forest wetlands provide important habitat for many animals.



Seep Wetland

STATEWIDE

Seeps are located along slopes, ridges, or hillsides and kept semi-permanently to permanently saturated by groundwater. Seeps are usually forested, but the downslope portion of a seep may transition to a different wetland type.



Basin Wetland

STATEWIDE

Basin wetlands form in natural depressions surrounded by uplands, where they hold rainwater and provide habitat for a range of woody and herbaceous plants. Seasonally wet basins are important breeding areas for amphibians, as predatory fish can't survive when the basins dry up.



Freshwater Marsh

STATEWIDE

Freshwater marshes are in flat areas, saturated or inundated most of the time, and dominated by non-woody vegetation. They often result from disturbances such as fire, beaver activity, or utility line maintenance. Marshes that are influenced by tides in the Coastal Plain, and with a salinity of < 0.5 ppt, are considered tidal freshwater marshes.



Salt/Brackish Marsh

COASTAL

Salt/Brackish marshes are regularly flooded by salty ocean tides. The primary vegetation is grasses and rushes, mostly saltmarsh cordgrass and black needle rush. These wetlands are vital for lessening storm damage in coastal communities and hosting commercial fish and shellfish species.



Estuarine Woody Wetland

COASTAL

Estuarine woody wetlands are found on the edges of estuaries and saltmarshes, occasionally flooded with ocean tides during storms; they are dominated by woody vegetation like pines, cedars, red maples, and sweetgums.



Pine Wetland

COASTAL

Pine Flats or Pine Savannas occur on very flat surfaces with poor drainage and high water tables. Pines grow well in their sandy mineral soils and so do many flowering species. These wetlands are often planted with pine trees for harvesting and managed, which results in low species diversity.



Carolina Bay

COASTAL

Carolina Bays are not a wetland type, but are mysterious elliptical landscape features in the Coastal Plain that can host a variety of wetland types (e.g., pocosins, marsh, swamp forest). Named for the bay trees that grow there, they are important habitat for animals and have high species diversity.



Pocosin Wetland

COASTAL

Pocosins, or "swamps on a hill," form atop hilly accumulations of dead plant matter. The primary water source is heavy precipitation, and a high water table is the result of poor drainage. Pocosins are dominated by densely growing waxy evergreen shrubs and pond pines.



Non-Riverine Swamp Forest

COASTAL

Non-riverine swamp forests are in flat areas between streams and are dominated by trees (e.g., bald cypress, black gum, Atlantic white cedar, loblolly pine, and pond pine). They are usually inundated by groundwater, precipitation, and surface run-off, not by overbank or tidal flooding.

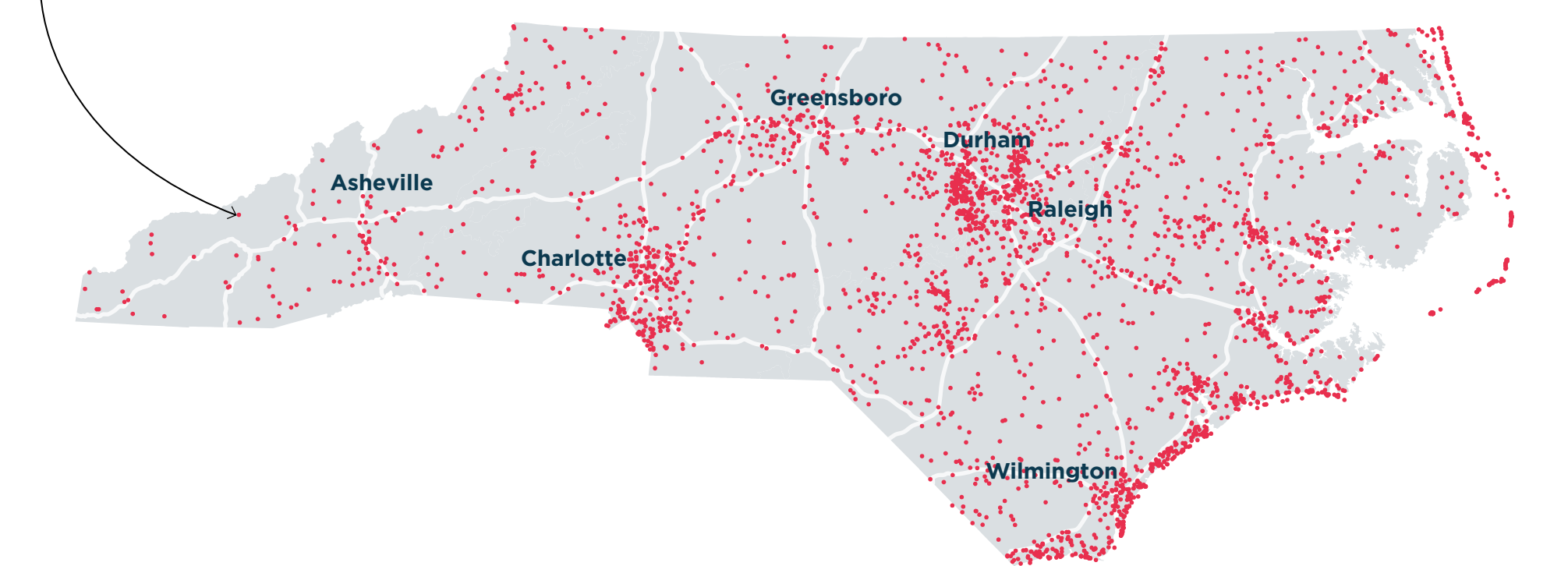
Vulnerable

Wetlands are being changed, especially in urban and coastal areas.

State Permitted Impacts to Wetlands 2005—2015

[Source: NC Division of Water Resources]

Each dot represents one state permitted wetland impact (conversion) area.



What creates wetland impacts and threats?



Valuable

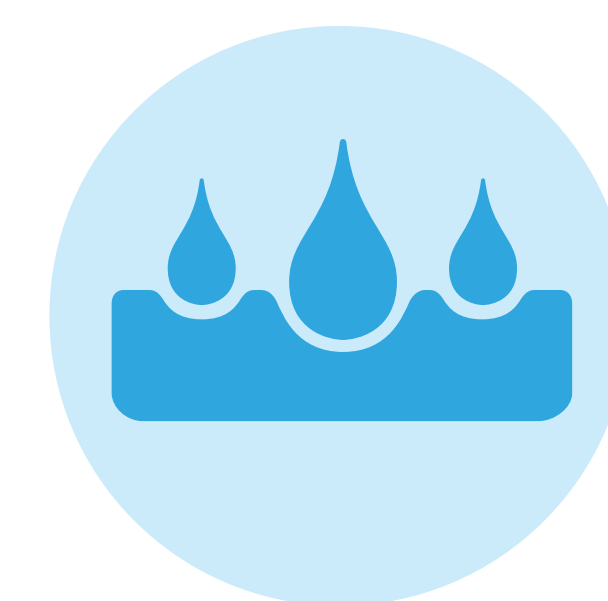
Wetlands benefit us and our environment in many ways.



Wave Protection

WAYS WE CAN HELP

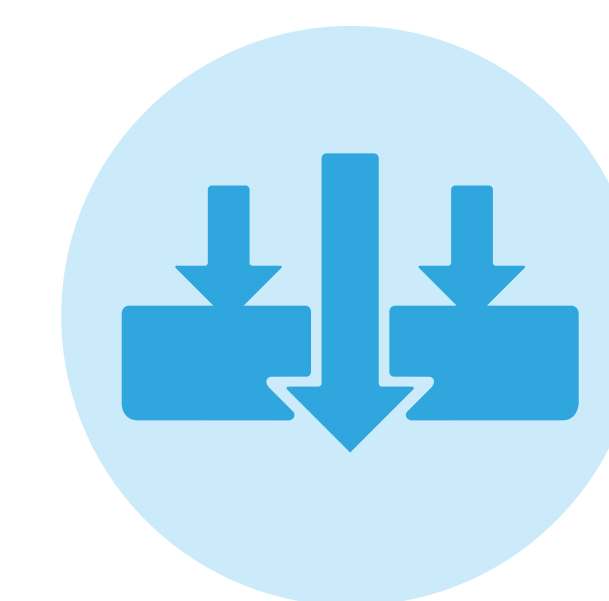
- Replace hard shoreline structures with living shorelines that use plant roots to stabilize soil at waterfront homes.
- Add more (native) plants to wetlands to increase roots in the soil.



Water Storage

WAYS WE CAN HELP

- Protect the natural soil and plants in wetlands so they can store water.
- Protect wetlands during any type of construction.



Water Filtration

WAYS WE CAN HELP

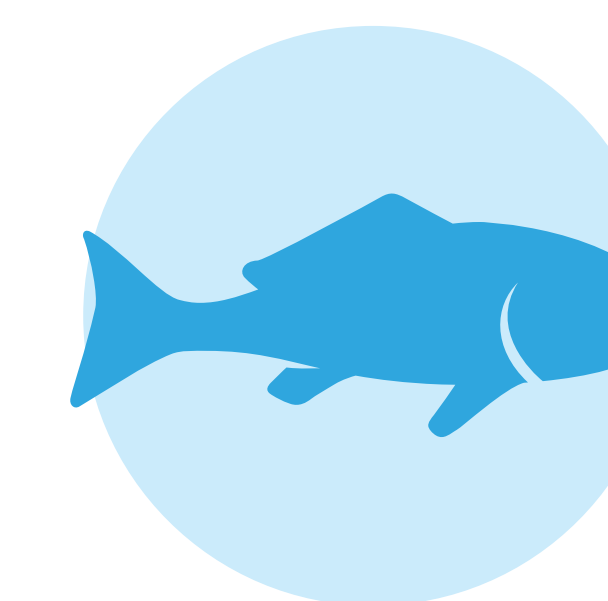
- Use phosphate-free, plant-based laundry and dish detergents.
- Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle



Wildlife Habitat

WAYS WE CAN HELP

- Maintain natural buffer areas between land and open water.
- Avoid releasing non-native plant or animal species into the wild.



Fisheries Habitats

WAYS WE CAN HELP

- Keep chemicals out of drains.
- Use non-toxic products for household, lawn and garden care.



Recreation

WAYS WE CAN HELP

- Pick up litter and dispose of properly.
- Participate in activities that help protect and restore wetlands.