

## Why Protect Wetlands?

### Flood Protection

Wetlands help control flooding by storing water during heavy periods of rain or snowmelt. This helps prevent flooded basements, parking lots and roads.

### Surface and Groundwater Protection

Wetlands keep streams flowing during times of drought by slowly releasing water they have stored during times of heavy rainfall. This can help to recharge groundwater reservoirs used for drinking water and protect fisheries resources.

### Water Quality Protection

Wetland plants and soils can store, filter and naturally treat nutrients and other stormwater pollutants to keep rivers, streams and lakes cleaner.

### Recreation and Aesthetics

Wetlands provide areas for hiking, photography, bird watching, nature study, fishing, and ice skating.

### Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

Many mammals, amphibians, reptiles and birds depend on wetlands for feeding, nesting, migration and wintering habitat. More than one third of the threatened and endangered wildlife species in the U.S. live only in wetlands.



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# Wetlands Are Worth It!



## RIDEM Wetlands Permitting Program

For More Information  
Call or visit us  
Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



235 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908  
401-222-6820

Or on the web at:  
<http://www.state.ri.us/dem>

DEM regulates alterations of Rhode Island's freshwater wetlands through an application process that determines the presence of wetlands, verifies delineated wetland edges, and reviews proposed projects in and adjacent to freshwater wetlands.

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