

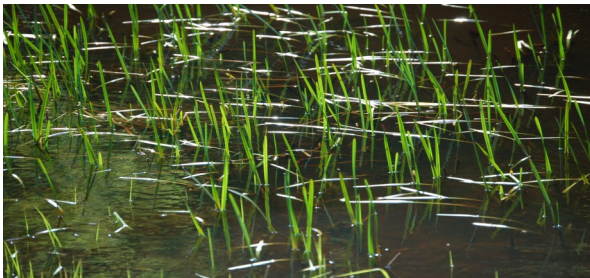
Wetlands Protection Act

The Wetlands Protection Act states:

that no person shall remove, fill, dredge, or alter any area subject to protection without the required authorization. The wetland areas subject to protection are stream banks, land under water, bordering vegetative wetlands (such as marches, wet meadows, swamps), isolated land subject to flooding, and coastal banks, dunes and beaches.

The purpose of the act is to protect the public's interests:

- in the protection of public and private water supply, groundwater supply, fisheries, wildlife habitat, and land containing shell fish,
- in the prevention of pollution, and storm damage, and
- in controlling floods.



Lawn Care

Minimize Lawn Treatment Applications (herbicides, pesticides, etc.)

If improperly used, these materials can be harmful to humans, pets, wildlife and eventually could end up in the water supply.

Conserve Water

Excessive lawn watering contributes to severe low flow conditions in streams and rivers in all but the wettest years.

The Southampton Conservation Commission kindly reminds residents that invasive species should be avoided in landscaping projects.



What You Need To Know About Wetlands Protection



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(413) 529-0106

<http://www.town.southampton.ma.us/dbcc/conservation.php>

The Commission normally meets twice a month on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room in the Town Hall at 8 East Street.

Before Starting a Project, Contact the Conservation Commission

A large percentage of Southampton homeowners have wetland resources areas on or near their property. If you plan to do any work in a wetland, within 100 feet of a wetland, or within 200 feet of a stream or river, such as:

- Tree/vegetation removal or clearing
- Grading, excavating or paving
- Landscaping
- Construction, additions, etc.

or any other activity that might alter wetlands or their buffer zones, you must contact the Conservation Commission.

Do Not Assume Your Contractor Will Obtain All the Necessary Permits

If you need approval, the Conservation Commission is ready to answer your questions and help guide you through the application process for the particular project you have.

The goal of the Commission is to allow Southampton landowners to proceed with their projects while simultaneously protecting valuable wetland resources that benefit everyone.

Wetland Do's and Don'ts

Some activities near wetland area are allowed and do not require Commission approval:

- Mowing an existing lawn,
- Working in an existing garden,
- Pruning and maintaining existing landscaping,
- Planting native vegetation, and
- Hiking, horseback riding, and other passive recreation.

Other activities are prohibited in wetland resource areas or buffer zones and are subject to fines:

- Dumping yard waste such as leaves, grass, or other waste products, including manure,
- Dumping dirt or other fill,
- Draining or pumping water to/from a wetland, pond or stream, and
- Building dams or removing beaver dams without a permit.

Wetlands function best in a natural state. Do not clear them or “clean them up.” Wildlife often thrives in areas with brush piles, rotting logs, and other natural debris.

Stewardship of Conservation Properties

In addition to the administration of the Wetlands Protection Act in the Town of Southampton, the Conservation Commission is responsible for the stewardship of conservation land owned by the town. These properties amount to over 550 acres which were acquired either by direct purchase or gifting. They include the following:

- Manhan Meadows Sanctuary,
- Parsons Memorial Forest,
- The Wolf Hill Sanctuary, and
- The Szczypta Conservation Farm.

Stewardship activities include trail development, restoration, maintenance, and providing trail maps to residents.



SAVE what we need to save.
PRESERVE what we need to protect.
BUILD what we need to build.