

Why wetlands matter

Wetlands provide many benefits to people and wildlife, but they continue to disappear. In Canada, up to 80 acres of wetlands are lost every day.



⊕ **Wildlife:** Wetlands provide thousands of species of plants and animals with food, water, shelter and a place to call home.

⊕ **Clear lakes:** Wetlands capture phosphorus that cause harmful algae blooms in our lakes.

⊕ **Drought protection:** Wetlands help to minimize the impacts of drought by holding water on the landscape and slowly releasing it back to the surrounding areas.

⊕ **Clean water:** Wetlands are nature's water filters. The plants, animals and bacteria that live in wetlands help to clean your water before it reaches your taps.

⊕ **Reducing floods:** Wetlands are like giant sponges. During wet periods, they absorb and store excess water, which reduces the risk and severity of flooding.

⊕ **Biodiversity:** Wetlands are a biological resource similar to rainforests and coral reefs. They are an epicentre of life that cannot be replicated.

⊕ **Reducing erosion:** Wetlands trap sediments and reinforce soil to help prevent erosion. Along the coast, wetlands also protect communities from waves and currents.

⊕ **Recreation:** Thanks to natural beauty and abundant wildlife, wetlands make great places to relax and have fun hiking, wildlife watching, hunting, fishing and canoeing.

⊕ **Learning experiences:** Wetlands are great outdoor classrooms, full of life and filled with fun things to explore.

⊕ **Carbon storage:** Wetlands are a large carbon reservoir — often storing carbon that's thousands of years old.



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