

# Frequently Asked Questions

## WHAT DO WETLANDS DO?

Wetlands are highly productive and valuable ecosystems that provide habitat for multiple species; help protect our land and homes from flooding; serve as natural water purifiers; and provide space for recreation such as fishing, hunting and more.

## WHERE ARE WETLANDS LOCATED IN INDIANA?

In the 1700s, wetlands covered 25% of Indiana. Now, they cover just over 4%. This might not sound like a lot, but they provide habitat for thousands of species, including a third of Indiana's endangered species. In all, Indiana has already lost over 85% of its wetlands.



## HOW CAN I HELP PROTECT LOCAL WETLANDS?



Limit fertilizer, pesticide, insecticide and fungicide use in your garden to help protect wetlands from harmful runoff.



Conserve water by turning off the tap when it is not in use and making sure your home has secure pipes and no leakage to help keep vital water resources in the wetlands.



Reduce the use of plastic, recycle all recyclable materials and make sure your waste is disposed of in sustainable methods to help keep trash in the landfill and out of our hardworking wetlands.



Learn about the importance of wetlands and how they impact Indiana, which is the biggest step you can take in protecting them. To learn more, visit [IndianaWetlands.com](https://www.IndianaWetlands.com).



Contact your legislators. A 2022 Indiana Audubon Society poll found that 95% of Hoosiers believe we should strengthen or maintain current wetland protection. Let your legislators know what wetlands mean to you.



## WHAT SPECIFIC SPECIES RELY ON WETLANDS?

Wetlands are home to many species. Waterfowl, fish, amphibians and some reptiles use wetlands as their breeding grounds and migratory homes. Native wetlands plants support bees, monarchs and other important pollinators.

## HOW DO WETLANDS HELP TO LOWER FLOODING RISK?

Wetlands lower the risk of flooding by acting as a sponge, absorbing water and slowing the rate of water flow. This helps protect low-lying and flood-susceptible areas.

## HOW DO WETLANDS PROTECT OUR DRINKING WATER?

Wetlands help maintain good water quality and improve water quality by removing excess nutrients and retaining necessary nutrients, degrade chemicals, and reducing water sediment. These important processes keep Indiana's water clean.