

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE A PROJECT IN MIND?

Determine if your project will occur within a wetland or adjacent upland resource area.

- Call the Conservation Office with questions.
- Complete the required application.
- Attend a public hearing.
- Get a permit before starting work.

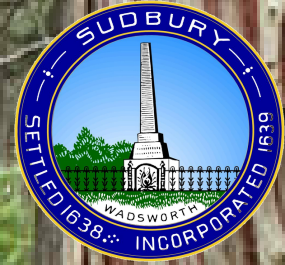
## WHAT HAPPENS TO VIOLATORS?

Under the Wetland Protection Act AND The Local Wetland Bylaw, the Conservation Commission can require illegally altered land to be restored to its original condition, and can issue fines.

## HELP PROTECT WETLANDS!

You can do more than just obey the law.

Do not use fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, or deicers near wetlands. Encourage native vegetation and native wildlife.



### THE SUDBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Sudbury Conservation Commission was established in 1962 to protect local natural resources and features and to act as stewards of the town's conservation properties.

One of the Conservation Commission's most important responsibilities is protecting the ecological integrity of Sudbury's wetlands and the surrounding landscape. The Commission is responsible for implementing and enforcing the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw.

### Sudbury Conservation Commission

## LIVING WITH WETLANDS

A Guide to  
Wetland Protection Laws  
in Sudbury

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: [concom@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:concom@sudbury.ma.us)  
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Department of Public Works Building  
275 Old Lancaster Road  
Sudbury, Ma 01776

PLEASE Read this before you  
dump, cut, or build  
near wetlands.  
You may need a permit

# DID YOU KNOW?

- Wetlands on both public and private property are regulated.
- You are responsible for activity that occurs on your property.
- Before you hire a tree company, landscaper, or contractor call the Conservation Office to determine if you need a permit.
- Wetlands can be wooded or meadow-like; wetlands often appear dry in the summer.
- The Conservation Commission takes enforcement action for work done without a permit.
- Over 26% of Sudbury falls under wetland regulations (so your property may, too).



## WHAT WETLANDS ARE PROTECTED?

In Massachusetts, the type of soils and vegetation in the area defines wetlands. You may never see standing water and it can still be a protected wetland. The Conservation staff or a wetland specialist can help you determine whether you live near a wetland.

The Commission is required to review any work proposed within or near a:

- Swamp, bog or marsh
- Forested wetland
- Vernal pool
- Pond
- Intermittent or perennial stream
- Within the 100-year floodplain
- Within 200 feet of a perennial stream
- Within 100' of all other wetland areas listed above



The upland areas within 100 feet of wetlands are critical in maintaining health and productivity of wetlands and provide their own important pollutant filtering processes and wildlife habitat.

## WHAT WETLAND LAWS APPLY?

The Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Sudbury Wetlands Administration bylaw protect the above-mentioned wetlands and adjacent upland resource areas.

## WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE REGULATED?

The Conservation Commission must review activities that will alter wetlands or their adjacent upland resource areas.

Regulated activities include:

- Dumping leaves, brush, grass, debris
- Cutting trees or shrubs
- Reconstructing or expanding lawns
- Building or constructing structures or a septic system
- Grading, excavating, or filling
- Changing storm water runoff patterns
- Polluting wetlands or streams

You can maintain lawfully existing (grandfathered or permitted) structures, lawns and landscapes, and you can do some limited tree removal for arborist-documented safety purposes.



## WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

In general, you must fill out a permit application (we have the forms for you), notify your abutters (we have those forms too), attend a public hearing (it's easy), and resolve any concerns about protecting the wetlands (we help). Then you may receive a permit for the work.