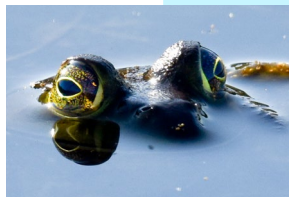
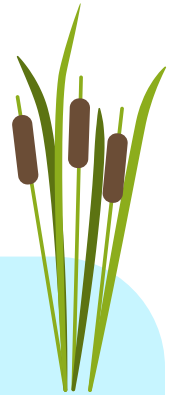
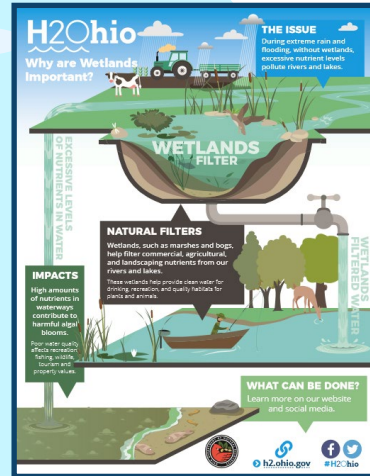


Why wetlands work & what you can do to help

HOW WETLANDS WORK

- Wetlands, also known as “nature’s kidneys”, slow the flow of water over land and trap pollutants. They process excess nutrients and stop them from flowing into nearby rivers and streams.
- The plants and soil in wetlands trap and hold excess nutrients, like phosphorus, before they can flow into waterways and fuel harmful algal blooms.
- An acre of wetland can store 1–1.5 million gallons of water.

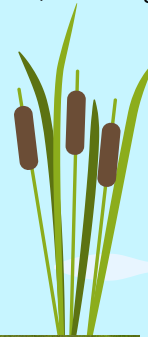


PROTECTING WILDLIFE

- Wetlands are considered the world’s most biologically diverse ecosystems.
- 90 species of threatened or endangered species in Ohio live in, or depend on wetlands. This includes plants and animals.
- Animals that thrive in wetlands include birds, fish, snakes, and frogs.

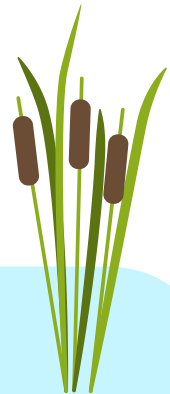
COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Wetlands provide economic commodities such as fish and provide spatial amenities to developments.
- Wetlands are great places to paddle, bird watch, fish, or explore and enjoy nature.
- Wetlands are a great place to learn outside of the classroom. They provide an outdoor space to study everything from science to art.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizer in lawn care. When needed, use natural products in place of chemicals.
- Improve the health of wetlands by planting a buffer strip of native plants. Native plants tend to resist diseases better, which means little to no pesticides or fertilizers are needed for them to thrive.
- Remove non-native plant species immediately and replace with plants that are native to Ohio.



H2OHIO STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

Want to contribute? Check out our H2Ohio Students Take Action program. Students in grades 6-12 can get hands-on experiences at ODNR's wetland restoration. Education experiences include:

- Invasive species removal
- River, stream, or beach clean-up
- Seed collection, rare and native wetland plants
- Raise and release fish
- Water quality tests/ investigation
- Stream quality monitoring
- Wildlife survey
- Build wood duck boxes



You can play an important role in the Great Lakes ecosystem to learn about ecology, watersheds, natural history, human impacts on the water, and more. The best part is, it's FREE! Go to the ODNR section of h2.ohio.gov to learn more!

DO YOU HAVE IDEAS?

We'd love to hear about them! Email h2ohio@dnr.ohio.gov.



Department of
Natural Resources