

DITCH DIRT REQUEST



1230 TOWNHALL ROAD WEST | ERIE PA 16509
(814) 868-9686 | www.summittownship.com

Completion of this form is not a guarantee of dirt delivery.
You will be contacted if a delivery will be scheduled.

TO BE COMPLETED BY PROPERTY OWNER

First Name: Phone:
Last Name: Email:

Preferred Contact: Email Phone

Delivery Site Address or Describe Site Location If No Address (MUST BE LOCATED IN SUMMIT TOWNSHIP):

Describe desired location on site where dirt will be placed:

I understand that I must clearly mark the desired location where ditch dirt is to be placed on site:

The property owner(s) hereby release, covenant not to sue, and shall indemnify Summit Township, Erie County, Pennsylvania, its officers, agents, contractors and employees from all claims for damages resulting from Summit Township's entry onto and use of the above mentioned property as a deposit site for the material, including any cause of action or claims for damages arising under eminent domain, tort, equity, or any present or future environmental law.

Furthermore, the property owner(s) hereby acknowledge that:

They are authorizing Summit Township to enter their property with heavy vehicles and other equipment that may disturb their property;

They are solely responsible to install erosion control measures and to perform any leveling, grading, seeding or other approved Soil Conservation Methods required to stabilize the material in order to prevent it from being eroded or washed into a wetland, stream channel or flood plain;

They bear the risk that it might contain environmental contaminants;

They must comply with all federal and state laws and regulations concerning the deposited material; and

They could be subject to civil and criminal penalties if, through their acts or omissions, they participate, authorize or knowingly condone the depositing or relocating of material into a wetland, stream channel or flood plain.

I agree to the terms and conditions stated above:

I acknowledge that I received the PA DEP Wetland Fact Sheets:

Signature (type name): Date:



Fact Sheet

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Department of Environmental Protection

CLUES TO WETLAND IDENTIFICATION: QUESTIONS FOR DEVELOPERS, CONTRACTORS, SURVEYORS, FARMERS AND LAND OWNERS

Wetlands are areas where ground and/or surface water lingers for at least brief periods of time during the growing season (see DEP Fact Sheet, *An Introduction to Wetlands* and the enclosed map, "Growing Seasons for Wetland Hydrology").

In Pennsylvania, wetlands are protected by both state and federal regulations and may also be protected by local (municipal) regulations or ordinances. Wetlands are valuable because they function in ways that benefit the natural world, including the human community (see DEP Fact sheet, *Wetlands: Functions at the Junctions*).

ARE WETLANDS PRESENT ON YOUR SITE? Take a walking inventory of fields, forests and woodlots. Ask the following questions:

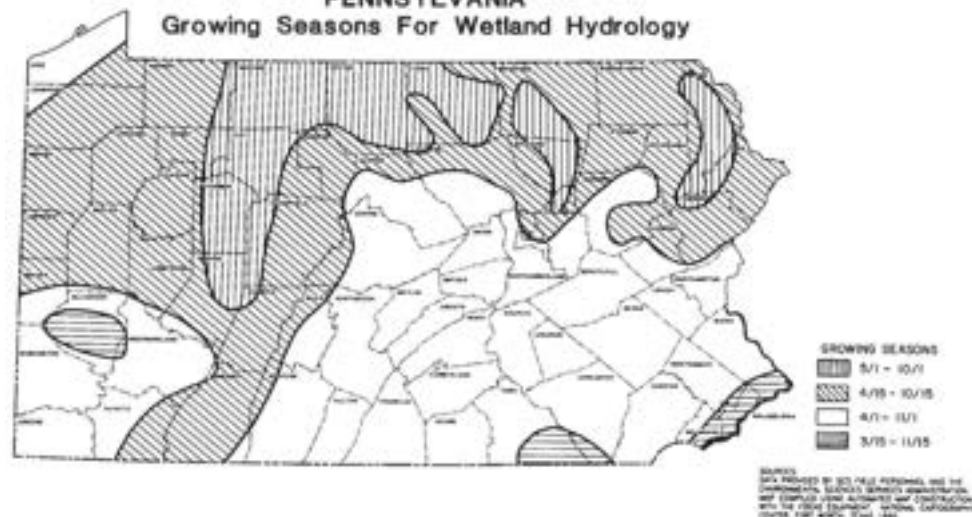
- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are there open bodies of water, ponds, lakes, streams or reservoirs? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are there natural drainage channels (permanent or temporary)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Is the ground soggy or spongy under foot at any time during the growing season (see "Growing Seasons" map)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are there "low spots" or depressions where water lies or pools for more than seven days during the growing season? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are swales, springs or seeps present? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are there areas you would not cross with vehicles, tractors or other machinery for fear of "getting stuck"? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Has the site been "ditched" or "tiled" in spots to "dry it out"? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do some plants have roots growing from their stems, above the soil line? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you see these plants: cattails, sedges (frequently with triangular stems), iris (flags), arrowheads, joe pyeweed, touch-me-not (jewelweed), rushes, sensitive fern, ironweed or skunk cabbage? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you see these trees or saplings: willows, red or silver maples, box elders, black or green ash, sycamore or black gum? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are tree trunks expanded or swollen at the base? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are any trees "blown down" (windthrows), exposing a shallow but extensive root system? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are any of these shrubs present: blueberry, bush-type dogwoods (for example, red osier), alders, buttonbush or spicebush? |
| | | Do you see: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | cleared areas where water has scoured the surface and removed the plants? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | places where fallen leaves are discolored gray or black? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | silt/sedimentation deposits on decaying leaves lying on the ground or on living plant leaves, or on stems or tree trunks? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | drift lines (wrack lines) where sticks, leaves and other water-carried debris have lodged along a contour or at the base of vegetation? |

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Is there a dark-brown layer of organic matter, over two inches thick, on the soil surface? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does sphagnum moss (a lush, green, juicy moss) cover the site? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Is the soil composed primarily of peat (decaying sphagnum moss)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does the soil smell like rotten eggs (sulfur)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Digging to a depth of 18 inches, is the soil color gray, gray-blue or gray-green or marked with spots, streaks, or lines of different color? Note: In agricultural fields, these characteristics are observed below the plow-line. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does a soil test pit (a hole dug to 18 inches) fill with water or does water "trickle down the sides"? |

If you have answered "Yes" to any of these questions, a wetland may be present on your project site or property.

Further information/assistance is available. Observe! Ask questions! Be alert to changes in state and federal regulations! Be aware of local regulations/ordinances! Seek professional advice at state, federal and private levels! **It is important to note that permits are normally needed before you perform any work in a wetland.** Contact: Regional Offices of DEP Permitting and Technical Services Section, DEP Division of Waterways, Wetlands, and Stormwater Management, your local county conservation district or the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

PENNSYLVANIA Growing Seasons For Wetland Hydrology



For more information, visit DEP's Web site at www.depweb.state.pa.us, keyword: Wetlands.

Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Watershed Management
Division of Waterways, Wetlands and Stormwater Management
P.O. Box 8775
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8775
717-787-6827
Fax 717-772-5986

WETLANDS: FUNCTIONS AT THE JUNCTIONS

A Simple Definition

Wetlands are junctions on the landscape where living terrain meets water that originated in the sky or that was welled-up from the heart of the earth. These junctions provide many benefits for the human community. Some of the values of wetlands are principally environmental, while others aid the human family in a social and economic way.

Ecological Functions of Wetlands

Wildlife Habitat

An important function of wetlands is habitat for wildlife. The waters of wetlands are teeming with many microscopic organisms. Insects abound, including damselflies, dragonflies, water striders and boatmen. Invertebrates such as clams and crayfish live there too. These creatures form the basis of the food pyramid for the many fishes, reptiles and amphibians, birds and mammals that flourish in wetland habitats.

Wetlands are also spawning and nursery grounds for fish. In fact, most freshwater fish feed in wetlands or upon food produced in wetlands. Pennsylvania wetland habitat statistics are impressive. Of the 38 species of amphibians, 32 (84 percent) find a home in wetlands the majority of the time. Twenty-five percent (11 of the 41 species) of all reptiles spend nearly 99 percent of their life in wetlands. Approximately 122 species of shore and wading birds, waterfowl and some songbirds perform most of their activities in, on or around water.

Large animals associated with wetlands in the commonwealth include muskrat, otter and beaver. As pressure for land development reduces upland habitat, deer and bear also find refuge in wetlands.

We extract useful products from some wetlands including blueberries, cranberries, finfish, shellfish and timber. We also share wetland wildlife habitat when we canoe, birdwatch, photograph, hike, fish and hunt in them.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Pennsylvania has officially listed more than 500 plants in special concern categories under authority of the Wild Resources Conservation Act (1982). Many of these species live in our wetlands. Similarly, animals continue to receive protection, too. Two categories are "Endangered" and "Threatened". Endangered species are those plants or animals in imminent danger of extinction. Threatened species are those that soon may become endangered.

Invertebrates of special concern include numerous dragonflies and butterflies. Five species of turtles, two of frogs, three of salamanders and four of fish, are just a few of the many endangered or threatened animals living in our wetlands. Eight of the 13 species of birds (62 percent) listed as threatened or endangered are associated with wet habitats. The river otter, also a wetland inhabitant, is listed as vulnerable, indicating it may become threatened if its habitat is lost.

Nutrient Cycling

Wetland plants absorb nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus and shuttle them through the food web. Additionally, by extracting these substances from the water, wetland vegetation keeps concentrations from reaching toxic levels. These plants also generate life-giving oxygen through capture of the sun's radiant energy in the process known as photosynthesis.



Education and Aesthetics

Wetlands are valuable for the beauty they bestow to the appreciative eye. They also provide key opportunities for studying the environment.

We owe a great debt to our wetlands for performing many beneficial tasks for us.

The loss of wetlands denies the human community of these benefits. Natural drainage and sedimentation characteristics are altered, a natural system of water filtration is lost, plants and animals disappear, and the overall environment is degraded.

Socio-Economic Benefits

Land Protection

From a socioeconomic view, wetlands function to protect land and property from flood and storm damage. The rise and fall of water levels along rivers with neighboring wetlands is remarkably more gradual than where wetlands have been destroyed. The water-purifying and damage-reducing value of wetlands saves us untold dollars annually. In addition, wetlands control erosion and store water.

Pollution Control

Vegetation slows down or temporarily stops the movement of water as it travels through our wetlands. This causes soil (silt) carried in the water from erosion and runoff to settle out. Pollutants, toxins, metals and other substances are also caught in the wetland silt. Although this is not the preferred solution, it prevents the movement of these substances into larger bodies of water. In fact, wetlands are being "created" by environmental engineers to capture and treat stormwater and acid mine drainage. They function to filter and buffer acid water, altering its chemistry (pH) and removing materials such as sediments, nutrients and heavy metals.

However, despite their power to thwart pollutants, wetlands can be degraded or destroyed by too frequent or intense overloading of foreign substances. Natural wetlands are waters of the commonwealth and as such they need to be protected from pollution.

For more information, visit www.depweb.state.pa.us, keyword: Wetlands.

Or contact:

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