

## **How Can I Have Wetlands On My Property When I Don't See Any Water?**

Connecticut's definition of inland wetlands is based on soil characteristics. You cannot tell by looking at a property whether or not it has inland wetlands on it. Soil testing has to be done by a professional soil scientist.

There are inland wetlands and tidal wetlands. Inland wetlands are regulated by the town's Inland Wetlands Commission. Tidal wetlands are regulated by the CT DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection).

Wetlands are highly productive and biologically diverse systems that enhance water quality, control erosion, maintain stream flows, sequester carbon, and provide a home to at least one third of all threatened and endangered species. Wetlands are important because they improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat. They serve as a natural sponge against flooding and drought, protect our coastlines and help fight climate change. Wetlands help to dilute and filter material that could otherwise harm our lakes, rivers and other waterways.

Before you start any type of activity on your property, building, grading, filling, even buying a shed, please check with our office to see if you have inland wetlands on your property. You may need inland wetlands permitting. Land use activity from zero (0) to fifty (50) feet of an inland wetland requires Inland Wetland Commission Permitting. Activity from fifty (50) to one hundred (100) feet of an inland wetland require a Wetlands Enforcement Officer (WEO) Permit which I can approve administratively. Some land use activities are exempt from inland wetlands permitting, and some are as of right activities.

For more information, you can find our Inland Wetlands Regulations on our Town web site. Go to [clintonct.org](http://clintonct.org), hover over Departments, click on Inland Wetlands, and then click on Inland Wetlands Regulations.

As always, please contact the Land Use Office at 860-669-6133 with any questions. We're here to help.

Kathy King, Zoning and Wetlands Enforcement Officer

