TRENDS IN WETLAND PROTECTION

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EXPLORE WETLANDS

LEARN MORE ABOUT WETLANDS

- Spongy
- Saturated at the surface
- Uneven ground (hummocks)
- VT Iconic wetlands

WETLAND VEGETATION

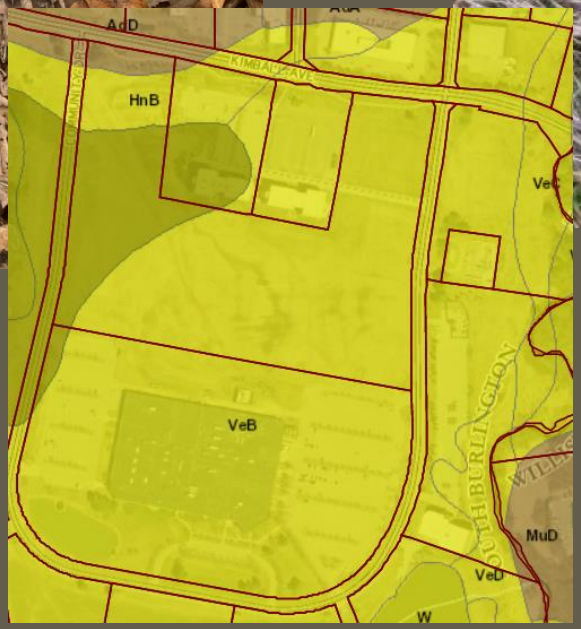
Hydrophytic vegetation = plants adapted for survival in saturated soil conditions

WETLAND HYDROLOGY

Hydrology is the driving force behind the development and maintenance of all wetlands

WETLAND SOILS

Hydric soil characteristics develop over long periods in the absence of oxygen

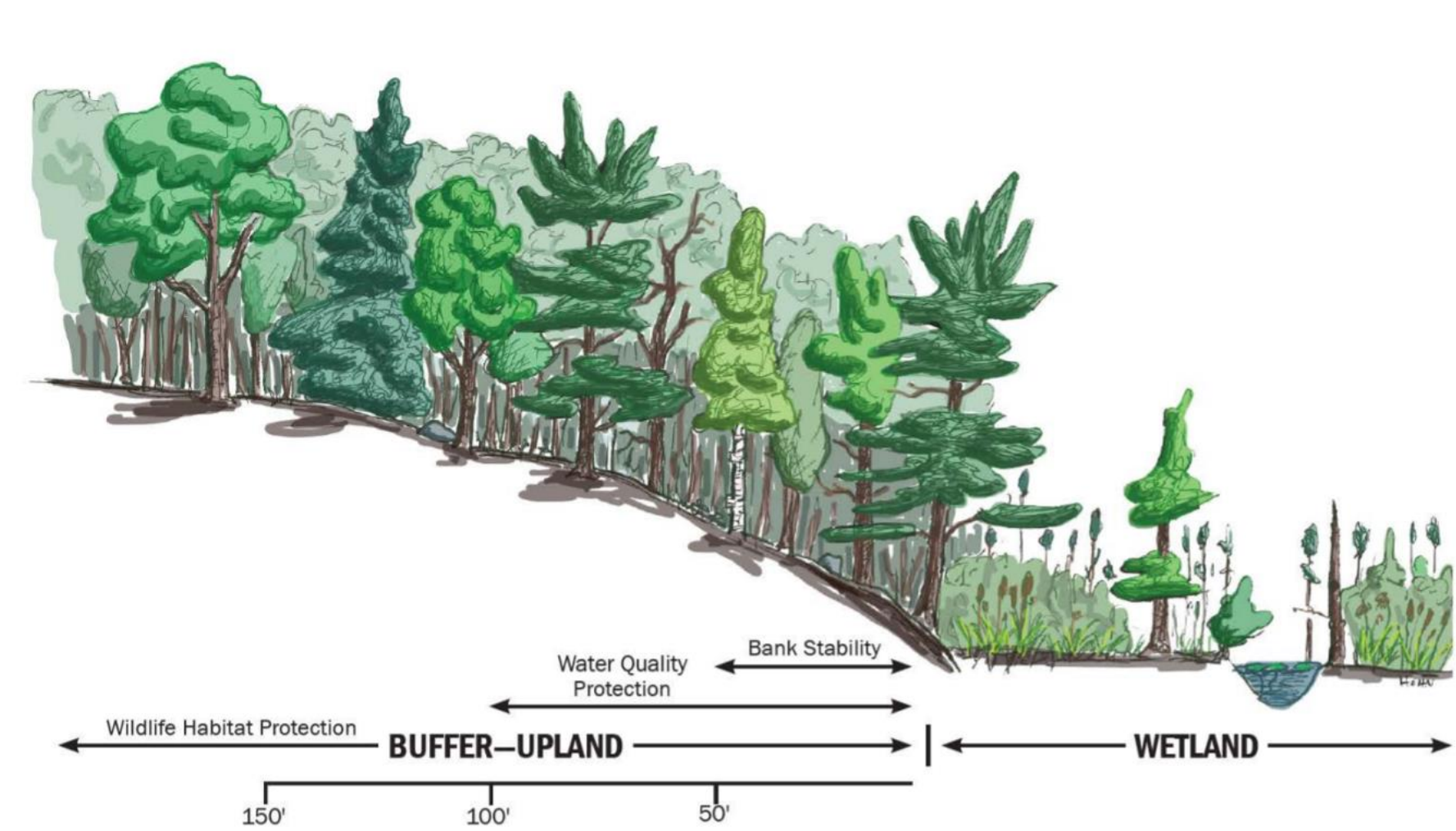


WETLANDS = CLEAN WATER

VERMONT WETLAND FUNCTIONS

10 FUNCTIONS and VALUES

THE BUFFER ZONE



WETLAND EXAMPLES

EXCEPTIONAL WETLANDS

https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wetlands/class I wetlands

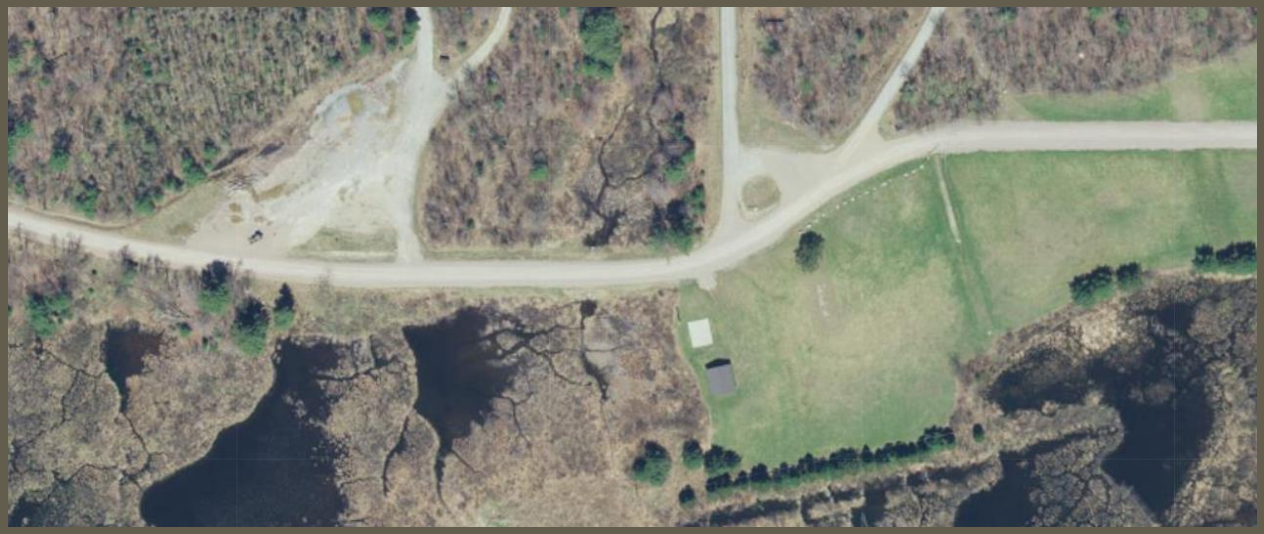
WETLAND CONNECTIVITY

WETLAND THREATS

- Lack of Education
- Incorrect ID
- Development
- Alterations

WETLANDS LOST

- Wetlands cover 4–6% of Vermont today, but due to development, we've lost more than 35% of our wetlands since colonization.
- Although the rate of loss under the current no net loss policy has decreased, the rate of loss is still significant.
- In 2019, the Program issued 154 permits and 41 projects were completed in calendar year 2019.



WETLAND GAINS

- Enhancement
- Restoration
- Creation

WETLAND RESTORATION

RESTORED WETLAND

WETLANDS ARE A NATURAL SOLUTION

- Wetlands and floodplains absorb and filter storms
- Otter Creek & Lake Champlain examples
- Investing in wetlands to protect communities

WETLANDS IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, BIODIVERSITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

- Clean water protects public health
- Supports fishing, swimming, boating, and other recreational uses;
- Provides critical wildlife habitat.
- Clean water also attracts visitors and protects property values

NATURE WORKS!

Wetland Areas to Focus:

- Increase mapping of wetlands
- Improve wetland data collection and reporting
- Close loopholes that allow for wetland impacts and loss –Net Gain
- Continue to Identify and protect Class I wetlands.