

✓ *Wetlands are among our most productive areas.*

They perform many useful functions that we are now beginning to recognize and appreciate. Here are some of the many functions and values of wetlands:

Functions

- Absorb and hold water
- Slow speed of flooding
- Replenish surface and groundwater supplies
- Intercept runoff
- Remove and process nutrients
- Filter pollutants (chemical and organic wastes)
- Reduce sediment loads
- Bind soil to wetland plant roots
- Provide food resources and habitat for birds, fish and amphibians

Values

- Flood storage and control
- Protection of property values
- Water quality and availability
- Erosion control and shoreline buffering
- Protection of endangered species
- Provide recreational opportunities for camping, boating, hunting, and fishing
- Inspiration for art and literature
- Education/Aesthetics

Of course, some functions support several values!