

Updates to Vermont Wetland Maps

Wetlands are also known as swamps, marshes, and bogs. Wetlands provide homes for wildlife, store flood water, and protect our clean water. Wetlands are found throughout Vermont and can sometimes be difficult to identify. The State currently has an outdated map that shows the general location of some protected wetlands. The map is neither completely accurate or comprehensive. The State is working to improve the map in two significant ways:

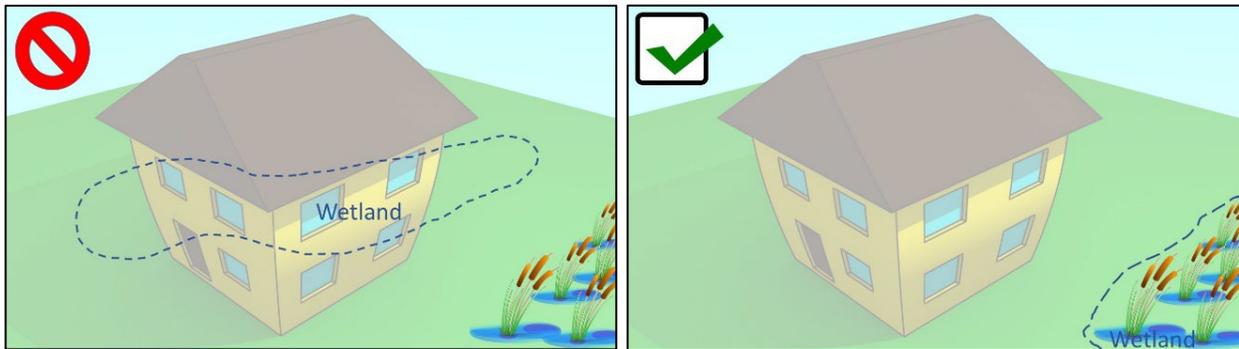
1. **Adding wetlands to the map.** Many protected wetlands are not shown on the current map. The State will update the maps to include more significant wetlands that exist now so you can easily find them. Adding wetlands will make them easier to protect too. There will be less unmapped protected wetlands after the update.

The State proposes to add the following types of wetlands to the map:

- Wetlands over a half-acre in size;
- Wetlands connected to water; and
- Wetlands that are a vernal pool or headwater
- Wetlands that contain significant natural communities, or rare species habitat.



2. **Revising wetland locations.** The existing map sometimes show wetland in the wrong locations. The State will improve the existing map so it is more accurate in showing where there may be protected wetlands.



Map updates will correct map location errors like moving the mapping from a house to where the wetland is next to the house.

The Agency recognizes the importance of providing maps to the public, so that landowners can avoid impacts to significant wetlands. The updated map is intended to clarify the location of existing significant wetlands and provide better predictability for landowners. The interactive draft VSWI map, linked below in “Want to learn more?” allows the public to comment on specific proposed wetland mapping.

Any unauthorized activity or construction in a significant wetland prior to its mapping is still a violation of the Wetland Rules. The Agency will investigate complaints of unauthorized activity in significant wetlands, including newly mapped significant wetlands, as those complaints are received. Generally, reports of ongoing unauthorized activity or construction within significant wetlands, including recently mapped wetlands, will receive priority with the goal of preventing further disturbance within the wetlands. Please do not submit wetland rule violation complaints in the comment section of the draft maps, complaints should be made [here](#). Also, please note that land used to grow food or crops before the Wetland Rules were established are considered exempt, even in areas of mapped wetland. Please refer to our [Vermont Farming Activities in Wetlands and Buffers Document](#) for more details on this issue.

Want to learn more? To view draft documents, maps, and to provide comments visit <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wetlands/rulemaking>

Do you have a wetland? To find out if you might have a wetland on your property, use our simple Wetland Screening Tool:



<https://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/wetlandScreening/> The screening tool uses the wetland maps and other information to give you more information about wetlands on a parcel.

The Vermont Wetlands Program is here to help. If you are proposing construction activities near a wetland, please contact your District Wetlands Ecologist regardless of whether it is mapped. Not all protected wetlands are mapped. See our Contact Page:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wetlands/contact>