

What are wetlands?

Wetlands and watercourses are usually identified using terms such as marsh, swamp, river, brook, pond or lake. However, in Connecticut the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Act defines wetlands by soil type. The soil types are poorly drained, very poorly drained, alluvial, and flood plain. **Inland wetlands may not always appear wet.** For example, all floodplain soils are considered inland wetlands regardless of drainage class and some floodplain soils can be quite dry.

Wetland Soils



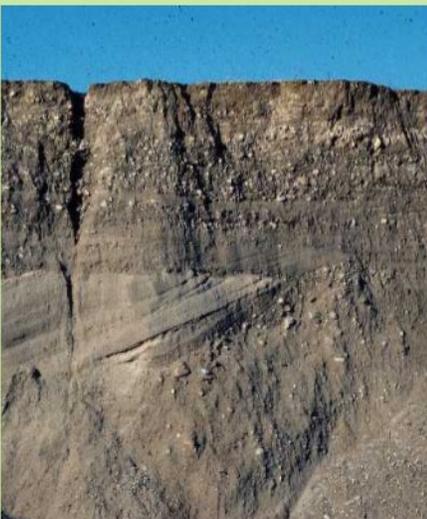
Poorly drained

These soils occur where the water table is at or just below the ground surface, usually from late fall to early spring. The land where poorly drained soils occur is nearly level or gently sloping. Many of our red maple swamps are on these soils.



Very poorly drained

These soils generally occur on level land or in depressions. In these areas, the water table lies at or above the surface during most of the growing season. Most of our marshes and bogs are on these soils.



Alluvial and Floodplain

These soils occur along watercourses occupying nearly all level areas subject to periodic flooding. These soils are formed when material is deposited by flowing water. Such material can be composed of clay, silt, sand or gravel. Alluvial and floodplain soils range from excessively drained to very poorly drained.