



What is a Wetland?

Wetlands are known by many names.

Bogs, peatlands, swamps and marshes are different names used to describe various types of wetlands.

In southern Alberta, where the Nose Creek Watershed is located, marshes are the dominant type of wetland. These marsh wetlands are commonly known as sloughs, potholes or ponds.

Wetlands aren't always wet— **and that makes them special.**

While water is an important part of a wetland, you might not see water in a wetland all of the time. But if you dig down, you'll find that the soils underneath are unique. These wetland soils tend to be saturated with water throughout the year.

Many wetlands in southern Alberta only hold water for a couple of weeks or months in the spring, before the surface

water dries up. These seasonal or "ephemeral" wetlands are important for supporting waterfowl during the spring migration—they warm up and become ice-free sooner than more permanent wetlands. As a result, waterfowl use these wetlands in the spring to feed and rest as they migrate north.

Other wetlands hold water permanently and only dry

up under extreme drought conditions. These wetlands provide important year-round habitats for wildlife such as frogs, songbirds and insects.

Per acre, wetlands support more wildlife than any other type of habitat. In fact, many plant and animal species are only found in wetlands, making wetlands incredibly important for supporting a diversity of species.



Permanent wetlands



Seasonal wetlands



ALBERTA'S
LIVING LABORATORY
PROJECT

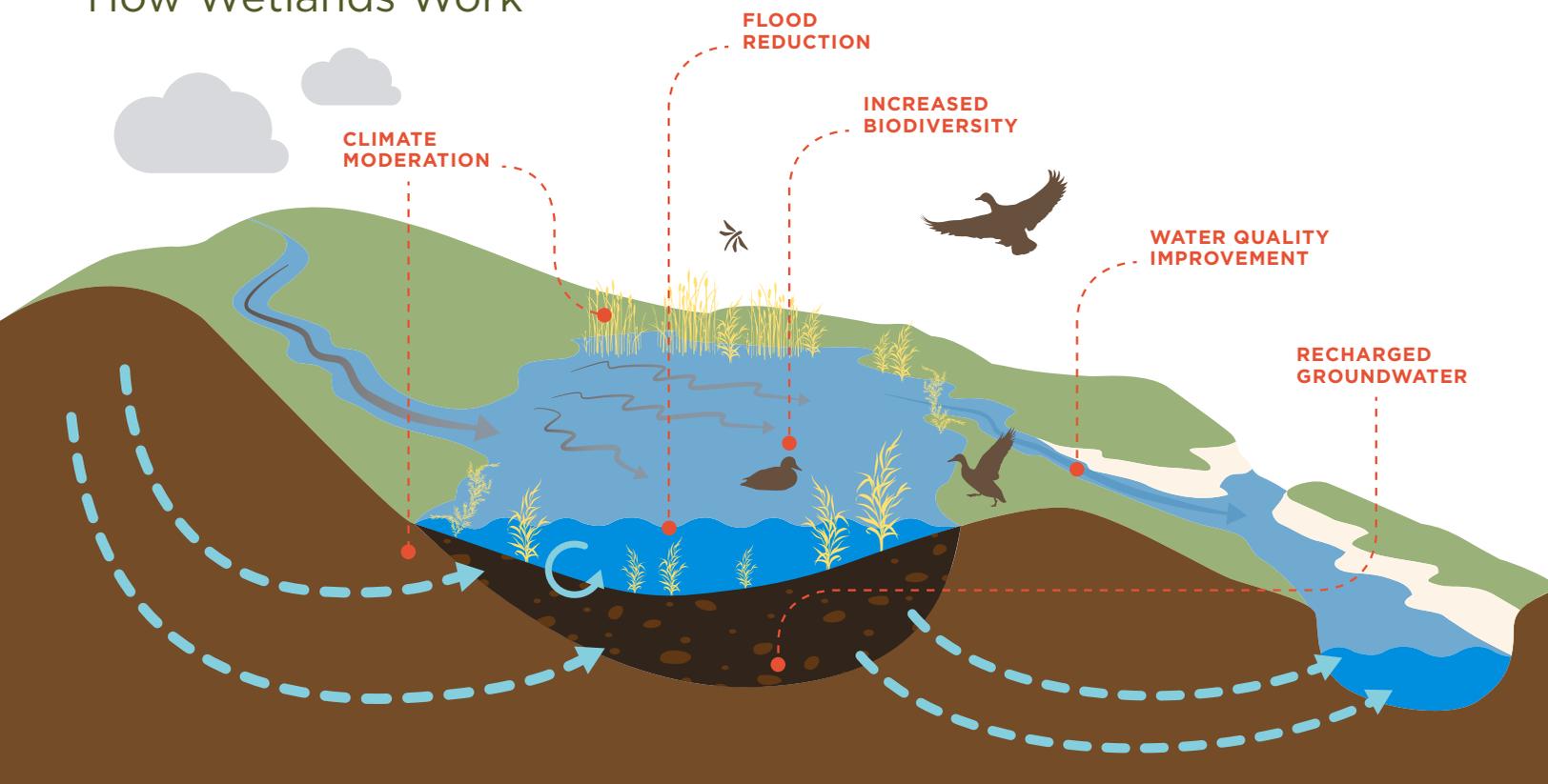
Restoring our wetlands together

Wetlands are good for us—and our environment.

In addition to providing important habitats, wetlands also have many ecological functions that directly benefit people.

For example, wetlands filter out sediments and nutrients, which improves the quality of both surface and ground water. Wetlands also store water in times of flooding and release it in times of drought, which helps to balance the amount of water available for human use. These environmental benefits are enjoyed by local landowners as well as their surrounding community.

How Wetlands Work



What types of wetlands are we restoring?

At some point, you may have dug a ditch or re-graded your land to help drain water out of a wetland and off your land. These are the types of wetlands we want to restore.

If there's a drained wetland on your land and you participate in our project, we'll visit your

property and install a plug to prevent water from draining out of the wetland in the future.

We will not be restoring wetlands that have been filled with soil or other materials. Also, we are not paying landowners to retain wetlands that already exist on their property.



Drained wetlands

Interested? Have some questions?

If you have a drained wetland and are interested in participating—or just want to learn more—please get in touch. We'd be happy to chat.