

# MICHIGAN & THE NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY

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## Wetland Summary

Wetlands cover about 15 percent of Michigan. They provide many benefits, including flood and erosion attenuation, water-quality maintenance, recreation, and wildlife habitat. Michigan's wetlands are largely associated with surface features that are the result of glaciation. Most Michigan wetlands are vegetated by forest or shrubs, but fresh marsh is abundant in coastal and inland areas. About one-half of the State's wetlands have been converted to other uses, primarily agriculture. The Goemaere-Anderson Wetland Protection Act of 1980 (Public Law 203) and other State statutes are the basis for Michigan's wetland-conservation program.

## Distinctive Example of NWI Usage in Michigan












NWI maps have played a central role in Michigan's wetland inventory efforts, and this information has been disseminated to the point that it increasingly informs stakeholders of the presence of wetlands and the ecological functions those wetlands perform in their communities. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has been working since 2006 on refining and expanding the use of the Landscape Level Wetland Functional Assessment (LLWFA) across much of the state. Approximately 30 watersheds have been through the complete LLWFA process, and another ten watersheds are in some phase of completion. These watershed planning organizations have utilized these tools to help them better evaluate projects for preserving or enhancing their current wetland resources and planning for restoration of lost resources. Michigan recently received completed inventory updates from Ducks Unlimited, so they now have three distinct temporal wetland inventories. The original was completed between 1978-1981, the first update was completed using 1998 imagery, and the 2nd was done with 2005 imagery.

## Identified Uses of NWI In Michigan



## LEGEND

How the NWI has been used:

-  Agricultural Planning & Conservation
-  Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Planning
-  Development, Real Estate & Permitting Decisions
-  Energy Project Siting Decisions
-  Enforcement & Legal Defense
-  Hurricane, Storm Surge & Sea Level Rise Planning
-  Military Installation Assessment
-  Transportation Planning
-  Water Quality & Watershed Management Projects
-  Wetland Restoration, Monitoring & Assessment
-  Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

For the most up-to-date wetland mapping information, please contact the state contact(s) listed below:

Chad Fizzell, MI Dept. of Environmental Quality, Water Resources Division  
[www.michigan.gov/wetlands](http://www.michigan.gov/wetlands)

Michigan's Wetlands Map Viewer: <http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/wetlands/>

