

# Wetland Ecosystems

## VITAL NATURAL SERVICES

### What are Wetland Ecosystems?

Wetland ecosystems feature moisture-dependent plants that thrive in an environment where water remains at or above the surface of the soil during most of the year. The type of wetland can vary between bog, fen, marsh, swamp and estuarine wetland (where fresh and salt water mix) and can be flooded year-round or seasonally. Wetlands rely on a delicate balance between water and plant life.

### Where are Wetland Ecosystems located?

Wetland ecosystems occur in areas of flooding, fluctuating water tables, poor drainage or tidal influences, including agricultural lands that flood seasonally.



*Patrick Clay*

***Wetland Ecosystems make up only 0.2% of Mayne Island.***

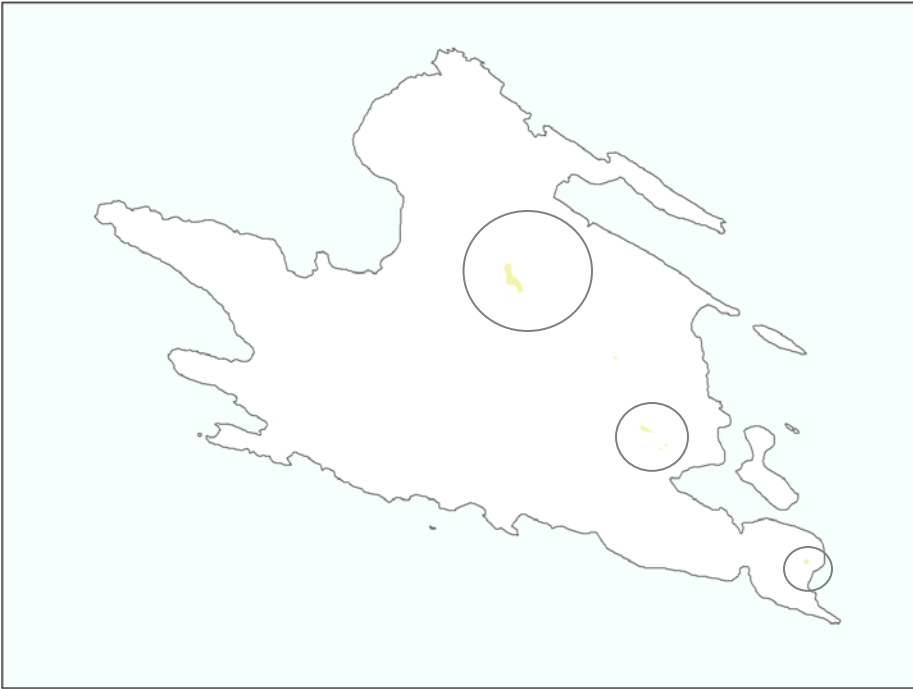


*Justine Stark*

### Why are Wetland Ecosystems important?

There are very few wetlands in the Gulf Islands and they are precious. They serve as water filtration systems, removing toxins and sediments from runoff. They capture and store water, aiding in ground water recharge and flood control. Wetland ecosystems provide key breeding and feeding areas for birds, insects and amphibians and exhibit high rates of biodiversity. Seasonally flooded agricultural fields are vital additions to dwindling natural wetland and riparian habitats and play a critical role as wintering stopover areas for migratory birds.

# Wetland Ecosystems on Mayne Island



## How can we protect Wetland Ecosystems?

Healthy wetlands provide clean, filtered water, flood control and wildlife habitat.

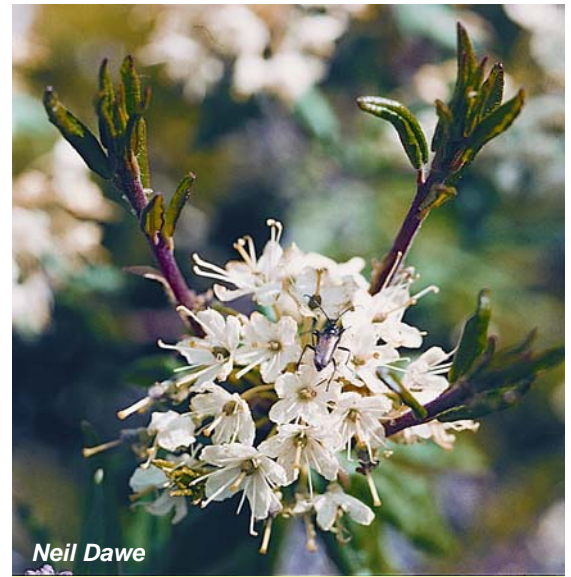
- Avoid infilling, draining or ditching wetlands
- Create and retain a vegetated buffer around wetlands and associated riparian ecosystems to protect hydrology systems
- Prevent disturbance of nesting or breeding areas by humans, livestock or pets, especially between March and August
- Restrict nearby pesticide, fertilizer or other chemical use



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Neil Dawe

## Associated Species

### Animals

*Frogs, rough-skinned newt, dragonflies and damselflies, marsh wrens, yellow warblers, red-winged blackbirds, ducks, beaver*

### Plants

*Sedges, sphagnum moss, hardhack, salmonberry, skunk cabbage, common cattail*

### Rare Species

*Red-tailed frog, painted turtle*

## For more information

*Please visit the Islands Trust website:*

[www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca)

*or call 1-250-405-5151 or 1-800-663-7867 (Enquiry BC)*