

Town of Somers Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission, established in 1974, is responsible for implementing and enforcing the town's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses regulations pursuant to the CT General Statutes 22a-36. Wetlands have been one of the most misunderstood natural resources; the true value of wetlands was realized after more than 50% were drained or filled. Let's all do our part to care for the remaining wetlands so that future generations can access healthy living conditions, including clean water.



In Connecticut, soil scientists determine wetlands based on soil types, which may not be obvious. Also, some activities may be deemed exempt and not require a wetland permit, including limited agriculture, recreation, or landscaping, but they typically require a ruling by the Conservation Commission first.

Property owners and developers should contact the town's Wetlands Agent early in the planning stage. The Agent can help determine whether a permit is needed, which is important to avoid undue expenses and delays.

Wetlands Do the Dirty Work for You...

- ◆ Controls floods & erosion
- ◆ Filters sediment & pollutants
- ◆ Protects water quality
- ◆ Provides fish & wildlife habitat
- ◆ Provides food & recreation
- ◆ Replenishes groundwater

When Do You Need a Wetland Permit?

Before conducting any activity/disturbance within 100' of a wetland or watercourse, including:

- ◆ Building structures (houses, sheds, pools, playscapes, etc.)
- ◆ Clearing land and creating open lawn
- ◆ Depositing material (brush, building supplies, trash, septic waste, etc.)
- ◆ Diverting, altering, or obstructing water with artificial or natural materials
- ◆ Grading land or disturbing soils
- ◆ Filling with materials or draining to dry the area
- ◆ Operating equipment (recreation and non-recreational vehicles, chainsaws, etc.)
- ◆ Removing materials (cutting dead or live trees/vegetation, pumping out water, etc.)

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<https://www.somersct.gov/boards-and-commissions/conservation-commission/>