

## Jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission

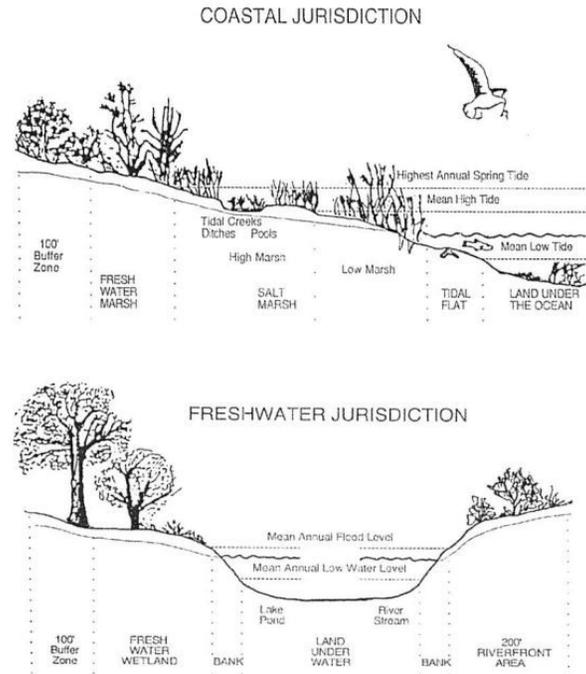
Work in or near any of the below resource areas requires a permit from the Conservation Commission.

### Coastal Resource Areas

- Land Under the Ocean
- Coastal Beaches and Tidal Flats
- Coastal Dunes
- Barrier Beaches
- Coastal Banks
- Rocky Intertidal Shores
- Salt Marshes
- Land Containing Shellfish
- Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (Flood Zone)

### Inland Resource Areas

- Banks (Inland)
- Freshwater Wetlands
- Bordering Vegetated Wetlands
- Isolated Vegetated Wetlands
- Land Under Waterbodies and Waterways (Inland)
- Land Subject to Flooding
- Riverfront Areas



### DID YOU KNOW?

- Resource areas on both public and private property are regulated.
- You are responsible for activity that occurs on your property. Before you hire a tree company, landscaper, or contractor, call the Conservation Office to determine if you need a permit.
- The Conservation Commission takes enforcement action for work done without a permit.

### Fairhaven Conservation Commission

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Fairhaven  
Conservation  
Commission

# LIVING WITH WETLANDS

*What You Need to  
Know About Wetlands  
Protection in Fairhaven*



Tel: (508) 979-4023

# Your Guide to Wetlands Protection Laws in Fairhaven

## What Are Wetlands?

The word “wetland” conjures up the classic image of a swamp or marsh, but wetlands can take many forms, and some may even look dry for a major portion of the year. Wetland resources can include beaches and dunes, marshes, ponds, and forested wetlands. These areas are surrounded by “buffer zones”—100-foot-wide protective zones around wetland resource areas that protect those resource areas from human impacts and provide valuable wildlife habitat.

## Why Are Wetlands Important?

Wetland resource areas provide critical habitat to wildlife and help maintain the aesthetic beauty of our town. They also provide priceless services including flood control, pollution prevention, and decreasing storm damage.

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission is responsible for protecting these areas through the enforcement of state and local wetlands protection laws and regulations.



## What Activities are Regulated?

The Conservation Commission must permit activities that will remove, fill, dredge, build upon, or alter any resource area or the 100-foot buffer zone associated with each resource area.

Regulated activities include but are not limited to:

- Building or constructing structures or a septic system
- Grading, excavating, or filling
- Changing stormwater or drainage characteristics
- Polluting resource areas
- Cutting down trees

You can maintain lawfully existing (grandfathered or permitted) structures and lawns and landscapes, and you can do some limited vista pruning of trees in the buffer zone only. **However, the following activities require a permit: cutting of whole trees, clearing understory, construction, disturbing of earth, altering drainage, dredging, and filling.**

Some activities are considered minor and therefore do not need a permit. Call the Conservation Office to determine if your project is exempt.

## What Wetland Laws Apply?

The Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Chapter 131 §40) and its regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Fairhaven Wetlands Bylaw (Chapter 192) protect the resource areas listed on the back of this brochure as well as their associated 100-foot buffer zones.

## What Should I Do If I Have a Project in Mind?

1. Determine if your project will occur within a resource area or buffer zone ([please see the graphic on the back of this brochure](#)) or in a flood zone (i.e., do you pay flood insurance?).
2. Call the Conservation Office at (508) 979-4023, ext. 128 with questions.
3. Complete the required application.
4. Attend a public hearing.
5. Get a permit before starting work.

## Help Protect Wetlands!

You can do more than just obey the law:

- Avoid using fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, or deicers near wetland resource areas.
- Use water responsibly when maintaining your lawn.
- Encourage native wildlife and encourage or plant native vegetation.

