

## THE DIGHTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION OUTREACH

Besides enforcing state and local laws the Commission has involved itself in many programs. These include:

- Land Purchases
- Acceptance of land donations
- Working with boy scouts for trails and projects
- Working with the American Chestnut Foundation for chestnut restoration
- Working with Bristol County Agricultural High School Environmental Studies.
- Placement of wildlife observation decks for viewing
- Osprey Nesting Platforms.



# DIGHTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION



## PROTECTING OUR WETLAND ENVIRONMENT

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Conservation-Commission](https://dighton-ma.gov/279/Conservation-Commission)**

# THE DIGHTON CONSERVATION

The Dighton Conservation Commission is in charge of enforcing MGL 310CMR and the Commission's Local By-Laws. These laws protect inland and coastal wetlands, streams, intermittent streams, and vernal pools. Also included is land bordering major rivers and floodplains. By protecting the above, the wildlife is protected as well as new and existing buildings

## JURISDICTION OF THE COMMISSION

- 100 feet from all wetlands
- 200 feet from streams/rivers
- 200 feet from the high water of vernal pools
- Storm water discharge



All activities within the wetlands and the buffer zone must be approved by the Commission with a permit. This includes grading, filling, new landscaping, construction and tree removal. Maintaining existing landscapes by mowing, gardening and pruning are exempt.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF WETLANDS

First of all wetlands are resource areas that contain certain vegetation types and soils, and frequently have a high water table throughout most of the year.



Within the wetland may be ponds, vernal pools, intermittent streams that dry up during the summer, moss, ferns and skunk cabbage. They also contain a variety of wildlife that's important for the life cycle of many other creatures.



Wetlands are also important for the "free" services they give us:

- Drinking water purification
- Groundwater recharge
- Flood control
- Pollution prevention

Even though wetlands may appear to be wasted land, we all benefit from them.



Take care of them by respecting all that live there. In your yards avoid using chemicals that pose a threat to groundwater, wildlife, people, and pets. Fertilizer can actually destroy a nearby pond by causing algae blooms and killing off what lives there.

