

Wetlands

Wetlands cover approximately 1-2 percent of the land in Cecil County. Wetlands provide vital habitat for plants and animals, filter pollutants, control erosion, and help protect the shoreline from damaging waves. Wetland plants also act to regulate global temperature by absorbing large amounts of carbon.

America's wetlands support over 5,000 species of plant life, 190 amphibian species, and many endangered species. Some endangered species found in the wetlands of Cecil County include the Whooping Crane and the Bog Turtle. Cecil County's wetlands are also home to a Maryland Threatened Species, the Bald Eagle.



Image Credit: Bog Turtle
<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/naturalresource/spring2006/turtles.asp>

There are two types of wetlands, tidal wetlands (coastal) and non-tidal (inland) wetlands. Tidal wetlands are found where seawater joins freshwater along coastal areas, creating a unique ecosystem. The plants and animals found in tidal wetlands have adapted to survive in salty water and soil conditions. Non-tidal wetlands are found along the floodplains of rivers and streams and in other low-lying depressions.

The Federal Government regulates some of the activities that take place in wetlands through Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The "Swampbusters" and the Coastal Management and Coastal Barriers Resources Act also provide protection for and further regulation of activities that take place in wetlands.

Where To Get Help for wetland information

- Cecil County Wetlands Restoration
<http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/WetlandsandWaterways/Pages/index.aspx>
- Living in Harmony With Wetlands
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/home/?cid=nrcs143_023373
- What are Wetlands? <https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/what-wetland>
- Environmental Concern; <http://www.wetland.org>