

# Forested Wetlands in New Brunswick

## 1. Check the Map

Search your address or PID number on the [WAWA Reference Map](#) to see if any mapped watercourses or wetlands appear on your property.



## 2. Check the Definition

Forested Wetlands are areas where the water table is at or near the surface, soil conditions are water-saturated, or standing water is present with at least 30 percent of the surface area covered by woody vegetation greater than 6 metres in height that is at least partially rooted within the wetland.



## 3. Walk the property to check for forested wetland

- Do you see natural drainage routes, which are defined by a small channel or scouring?
- Is the ground soggy or spongy under foot at any time during the growing season (May to September)?
- Is *Sphagnum* moss present?
- Are there low spots or depressions where water pools for more than 10 days during the growing season?
- Does the ground have areas of depressions and mounds?
- Do you see springs or seeps?
- Do you see areas that cannot be crossed by vehicle, tractor, or other machinery because it might get stuck in the soft, wet ground?
- Do you see any water-stained leaves on the ground (A)? These look blacker than plain dry leaves.
- Do you see fine silt or sediment deposits on leaves on the ground or on stems or tree trunks?
- Do you see any of these herbaceous plants: sensitive fern (B), cinnamon fern, jewelweed (C), or jack-in-the-pulpit (D)?
- Do you see any of these shrubs present: mountain holly, speckled alder, Labrador tea (E), or red-osier dogwood?
- Do you see any of these trees present: black ash, willow, red maple, silver maple, larch, yellow or grey birch, black spruce, or eastern white cedar?
- Do you see a black organic layer (may look like decomposing leaves and roots) below the surface that is at least 4 inches (10 cm) thick?
- If you dig a pit to a depth of 18 inches (45 cm), does it fill with water or does water trickle down the inside? You may need to wait a few minutes or so to observe this.



## 4. Ask for Advice

If you are still unsure whether a wetland or watercourse is present, please contact the Department of Environment and Local Government. ([wawa@gnb.ca](mailto:wawa@gnb.ca) or 506-457-4850)