



Protecting Our Wetland Preserves and their Benefits. Beautiful. Natural. Wildlife Habitats. Valuable.

Sue Remy, Ponds & Preserves Committee.

[Woodlands Word – April 2023]

We are so fortunate to live in Rivendell with its 115 acres of 14 Wetland and Upland Preserves. Not only are they natural assets that enhance our community, they serve many vital functions in addition to being part of our stormwater management system. As we learn more about the many ecological functions associated with wetlands and their significance to society, we can continue to implement the best management practices to keep our wetlands healthy and vibrant.



Wetland preserves provide many benefits to our community.

- **Natural water quality improvement.** Wetlands provide the ideal conditions needed for the removal of excess pollutants, including both nitrogen and phosphorus, from surface water.
- **Wildlife habitats and “biological supermarkets.”** Our wetlands support a rich food web, from microscopic algae and submerged vascular plants to Great Blue Herons, Otters and many other animals. For many species, wetlands are primary habitats where these species depend on them for survival. For others, wetlands provide important seasonal habitats, where food, water, and cover are plentiful.
- **Flood storage.** Wetlands store and slowly release surface water, rain, tropical storms,



groundwater, and flood waters. Trees and other vegetation distribute and absorb excess water too. Controlling excess runoff can result in less monetary flood damage (and related insurance costs), as well as protection of human health, safety, and welfare.

- **Shoreline erosion protection.** Wetland plants hold the soil in place with their roots, absorb the energy of waves, and break up the flow of wind-driven currents.
- **Aesthetic appreciation.** Protecting wetlands can protect our safety by reducing flood damage and preserving water quality, and in turn, protect our property values.

Did You Know? Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems in the world, comparable to rain forests and coral reefs. They also are a source of substantial biodiversity in supporting numerous species from microbes to mammals. Plus, the ability of wetlands to control erosion is so valuable that some states (e.g., Florida) are restoring wetlands in coastal areas to buffer the storm surges from hurricanes and tropical storms by dissipating wave energy before it impacts roads, houses, and other man-made structures.



Wetlands are vital to survival for some wildlife. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that up to 43% of the federally threatened and endangered species rely directly or indirectly on wetlands for their survival (e.g., the wood stork and Florida panther).

Respect and protect our wetlands preserves. Leave them alone and “natural.” Do not put anything in, or remove anything from, these preserve areas. Incurion violations are enforced to keep preserve areas natural and functional. Together we can keep our wetland preserves healthy for wildlife, and our community.

[Source: Wetland Functions and Values – epa.gov/watertrain]