

## What is a Wetland?

Because the term wetland can mean different things to different people, it is necessary to have a technical definition to standardize the concept.

Florida Wetlands are defined as: those areas that are inundated (flooded) or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and a duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils. Soils present in wetlands generally are classified as hydric (wet) or alluvial, or possess characteristics that are associated with reducing soil conditions. Florida wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bayheads, bogs, cypress domes and strands, sloughs, wet prairies, riverine swamps and marshes, hydric seepage slopes, tidal marshes, mangrove swamps and other similar areas. Florida wetlands generally do not include longleaf or slash pine flatwoods with an understory dominated by saw palmetto.

## Important Phone Numbers and Web Links

St. Johns River Water Management District  
(386) 329-4500  
(800) 451-7106  
<http://www.sjrwmd.com>

Army Corps of Engineers  
(904) 232-1680  
(386) 325-2028  
<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil>

Department of Environmental Protection  
(904) 807-3300  
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us>

Land Boundary Information System / DEP  
<http://data.labins.org>

Putnam County GIS  
<http://www.putnam-fl.com>

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*Putnam County*  
*Planning & Development Services*

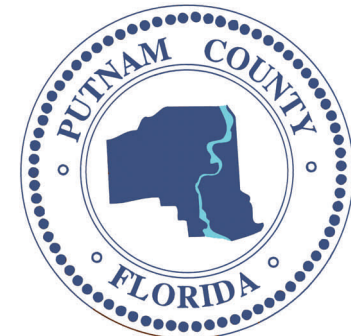
PO BOX 1486  
Palatka, FL 32178

Phone: 386-329-0307  
Fax: 386-329-1213  
Email: [pzb@putnam-fl.com](mailto:pzb@putnam-fl.com)

*Putnam County*  
*Planning & Development Services*

## Wetlands

Our Protected Resource



## Land Development Code

Article 6  
Resource Protection Standard

<http://www1.putnam-fl.com/live/pdlcdc.asp>

## Applicability and Requirements

Article 6 of the Land Development Code protects wetland resources identified as important to the public health, safety and welfare by establishing areas of a development site that must be protected from harmful affects of development.

- Wetland impacts shall first be avoided.
- Structure and site improvements shall be setback at least 25 from wetlands.
- Proposed developments shall establish a 25-foot buffer of native vegetation adjacent to wetlands to provide filtration of storm water pollutants.
- Proposed developments serviced by an onsite septic system must comply with the usable land requirements, wetland, and water body setbacks of Chapter 64E-6, Florida Administrative Code and the Land Development Code.
- The more restrictive requirement of the Land Development Code shall apply. For example, development of a property with wetlands adjacent to a water body will be required to meet the 50-foot water front setback requirements; however, if the wetlands extend 50 or more feet from the body of water, an additional minimum 25-foot wetland buffering would apply and the development must be set back a minimum 70 feet or more from the body of water.
- All applicable state and federal regulations for permitting and mitigation must be met prior to the County issuing any construction permits for development in or adjacent to wetlands or disturbance of wetlands. Exemptions provided in subsection 6.02.03 of the Land Development Code shall not be permitted unless first authorized by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the St. Johns or Suwannee River Water Management Districts. This will be enforced through the site plan review process conducted by Planning and Zoning Staff when a building permit application is submitted.

**Note:** Exemptions and emergency are provided for the Land Development Code.

### General Indicators that a Parcel may have Wetlands on it:

- Dark, mucky soils and some sandy soils
- Standing water after rain
- Exposed roots on trees
- Swollen tree bases
- Water lines and lichen lines
- Presence of some ferns
- Cypress, water oaks, pond pines, ash or elm trees
- Floodplains

**You may still have wetlands even though you do not have any of the conditions listed above.**

**If you are proposing any of the following activities you should contact the appropriate agency.**

COE - U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
 DEP - Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection  
 SJRWMD - St. Johns River Water Management



ACTIVITY	COE	DEP	SJRWMD	PUTNAM
Boat Dock / Boat Slip	X	X	X	X
Boat Ramp	X	X	X	X
Filling	X	X	X	X
Dredging	X	X	X	X
Plant Clearing by Hand		X		
Plant Clearing by Machine	X	X	X	
Plant Clearing by Chemical		X		
Seawall / Bulkhead		X		X
Fence	X	X	X	X
Bridge	X	X	X	X