

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Energy and Environment

November 30, 2015

Via U.S. Mail

OWNER NAME
ADDRESS

Re: Property Access Request
District of Columbia, Wetland Conservation Plan Update and Registry

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) has issued a grant to update the District's Wetland Conservation Plan and to create a Wetland Registry. Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. (WSSI) has been awarded this grant. As part of this update, WSSI is required to determine if various properties in the District have wetlands located on them.

Congratulations! Your property, located at [ADDRESS, GPIN/TAX MAP NO], has been identified as a property which has the potential to support wetlands. In order to assess the potential for wetlands on your property, DOEE and WSSI are requesting your permission for WSSI to access your property to perform this study.

The assessment work that will be performed will not have any physical effect on your property. WSSI staff will be recording vegetation present, looking for sources of water (such as ponds, streams, and springs), and taking photographs. It may be necessary to examine the soil on your property, which will be conducted using a hand-auger (with a diameter of less than 2.5 inches – smaller than a coffee cup) to a depth typically not more than 18-inches.

WSSI is planning on visiting your property between December 2015 and October 2016. There is no need for you to be present at the time of WSSI's site visit, though you are welcome to be present and observe. WSSI staff will carry a copy of this letter and a business card identifying them as WSSI staff. Additional information regarding this project can be found here: <http://doee.dc.gov/service/wetland-mapping-and-registry>

Please contact us if you wish to adjust the timing of WSSI's site visit, or if you do not want WSSI staff to visit your property. We appreciate your assistance with our task of mapping the environmental resources of the District, to the benefit of all its' citizens.

Sincerely,

Department of Energy and Environment

Rebecca Diehl
Environmental Protection Specialist
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Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.

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(Over)

Wetland Fact Sheet

Wetlands are the link between land and water, and are some of the most productive ecosystems in the world. Some common names for different types of wetlands are swamp, marsh, and bog. Depending on the type of wetland, it may be filled mostly with trees, grasses, shrubs, or moss. To be called a wetland, an area must be filled or soaked with water at least part of the year. Some wetlands are actually dry at certain times of the year!

Wetlands have many important functions that benefit people and wildlife.

- Provide habitat for a wide variety and number of wildlife and plants.
- Filter, clean and store water - in other words, acting like kidneys for other ecosystems!
- Collect and hold flood waters.
- Absorb wind and tidal forces.
- Provide places of beauty and many recreational activities.



Wetlands also act like sponges by holding flood waters and keeping rivers at normal levels. Wetlands filter and purify water as it flows through the wetland system. Plants found in wetlands help control water erosion. More than one-third of the federally listed species on the Endangered Species Act rely directly, or indirectly, on wetlands for their survival.

For further wetland information, please reference:

US Environmental Protection Agency's Wetland Home Page	www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands
Anacostia Watershed Society	https://www.anacostiaws.org
The Association of State Wetland Managers	www.aswm.org
National Marine Fisheries Service Restoration Center	www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration
US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/water/wetlands/
US Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory Center	http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/
Army Corps of Engineers	www.usace.army.mil
USGS National Wetlands Resources Center	www.nwrc.usgs.gov
U.S. Forest Service	www.usda.fs.gov
Introduction to Mid-Atlantic Seasonal Pools (EPA Publication)	http://www.loudounwildlife.org/PDF_Files/Amphibians_Vernal_Pools_MidAtlantic.pdf