

## **DEFINITIONS**

**Wetlands**: land or area (as marshes or swamps) that are covered often intermittently with shallow water or have soil saturated with moisture.

**Tidal Wetlands**: a wetland that is inundated by tidal waters. They are closely linked to our nation's estuaries, where sea water mixes with fresh water to form an environment of varying salinities.

**Non-tidal Wetlands**: most common on floodplains along rivers and streams, in isolated depressions surrounded by dry land, along the margins of lakes and ponds, and in other low-lying areas

**Estuarine Wetlands**: tidal **wetlands** that are usually semi-enclosed by land but have open, partly obstructed or sporadic access to the open ocean, and in which ocean water is at least occasionally diluted by freshwater runoff from the land.

**Lacustrine Wetlands**: large, open, water systems (e.g. lakes). This **definition** also applies to areas which possess characteristics similar to **lacustrine** systems (e.g. deep standing or slow-moving waters).

**Palustrine Wetlands**: a system of inland, non-tidal wetlands characterized by the presence of trees, shrubs, and vegetation that is rooted below water but grows above the surface.

**Riverine Wetlands**: area that is adjacent to a stream or river with continual flow,

**Riparian Buffer**: area of moisture-loving plants that surrounds the edges of wetlands, lakes, rivers and streams. This vegetation can tolerate only periodic flooding. The riparian buffer is the transition zone between the aquatic environment and the drier uplands. The riparian area is characterized by rushes, grasses, shrubs and deciduous trees

**Upland**: driest areas furthest from the wetland, occupied by trees, shrubs and grasses. The uplands provide vital food and shelter for wetland animals