

## 8.0 WETLAND MANAGEMENT

Wetlands are important to the District's water resources because they reduce the likelihood of flood damage by functioning like natural sponges, storing water and slowly releasing it over time. Wetlands also help control increases in the rate and volume of runoff in urban areas and buffer shorelines against erosion. Wetlands help improve water quality by removing or retaining nutrients carried in surface runoff, processing organic wastes and reducing the amount of sediment before it reaches open water. Because of their value to surrounding water resources, natural wetlands should be protected from uses as primary discharge for untreated stormwater.

**8.1 Policy.** It is the policy of the Board of Managers to support the Wetland Conservation Act Local Governing Unit's efforts to:

- (a) Manage wetlands to achieve no-net loss in the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of wetlands in the District.
- (b) Increase the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of wetlands in the District by restoring or enhancing diminished or drained wetlands.
- (c) Avoid impacts from activities that destroy or diminish the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of District wetlands.
- (d) Replace affected wetlands where avoidance is not feasible and prudent.
- (e) Encourage natural vegetation around wetlands which is integral to maintaining the water quality and ecological functions that wetlands provide.
- (f) Follow general recommendations presented in the County Groundwater Plans

**8.2 Wetland Impact Permits.** Any wetland impact (filling, draining, ditching, dredging, or altering vegetation or grades in a buffer zone surrounding a wetland) is required to conform to the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). The District does not currently serve as the Local Governing Unit (LGU) for WCA for any of the communities in the District, and therefore does not require the review of wetland impact, permit, and replacement/mitigation plans. Local Governing Unit regulations must be followed.

Activities conducted in wetlands may require a permit from the District under the other Rules of the District, see Rules 2.0 through 7.0 in particular.

**8.3 Wetland replacement.** The District urges wetland replacement, where permitted, shall be of the same or improved quality, type and function, and in accordance with the following prioritization for the location of the replacement wetland (both constructed and banked).

- (a) On site replacement is most preferred;
- (b) Within the same sub-watershed;
- (c) Within adjoining sub-watershed;
- (d) Within the District;

(e) Outside of the District is the least preferred;

**8.4 Technical Evaluation Panel.** The District shall participate as able, in the activities and deliberations of the technical evaluation panel (TEP) in accordance to the WCA process.