

## [Why are wetlands important?](#)

- ❑ Wetlands temporarily store flood water and reduce upland flooding.
- ❑ Wetlands help to buffer uplands against property damage during hurricanes and inclement weather.
- ❑ Wetlands help to remove pollutants in stormwater.
- ❑ Wetlands are the nursery areas for many different species of fish.
- ❑ Wetlands are becoming the last remaining wildlife refuges in Florida.

## [What are wetlands?](#)

- ❑ Wetlands can be forested swamps or marshes, vegetated lake shorelines, forested river floodplains or shallow grass ponds.
- ❑ Wetlands are wet during a normal rainy season, dry parts of the year.
- ❑ Wetlands are vegetated with plants that typically grow in wetlands.



Your inspector can go into detail about how the wetland limits are defined on your property at your request.

## [Do you have a wetland violation?](#)

All activities in wetlands are regulated by the EPC.

If your activity is in a wetland and you do not have a valid EPC permit for the activity, then **you may have a wetland violation.**

## [What should you do if you have a violation?](#)

- ❑ Cooperation with the inspector is your best course of action. You can provide any information (i.e., old photos, etc.) about your site that you feel the inspector needs to know.
- ❑ Please contact the inspector immediately if you haven't already.
- ❑ Most violations are resolved quickly and without further enforcement action.
- ❑ The EPC inspector will let you know how to resolve the violation. Corrective actions may involve restoring the wetland, removing unpermissible construction, or obtaining a permit.

## [Correction of a violation can be a win-win resolution.](#)

- ❑ The EPC inspector will advise you what needs to be done to resolve the violation and will assist you in creating a restoration plan if needed.
- ❑ Restoration of the wetland will typically satisfy the requirements needed to resolve the violation.

***Restoration = Restore the benefits that the wetland system provides***

- ❑ Allow plants to re-grow
- ❑ Replant with appropriate trees, shrubs, or herbaceous/aquatic plants
- ❑ Allow natural recruitment of beneficial native plants

## [What are your rights and options?](#)

- ❑ Warning Notices are intended to alert the recipient of staff's findings and belief that a violation may exist.
- ❑ You may contact the EPC inspector's supervisor (Bob Owens @ 627-2600 X 1224) if you do not feel the resolution is agreeable.



Arrowhead, *Sagittaria lancifolia*, in a fresh water marsh in Hillsborough County.



Red Mangrove, *Rhizophora mangle*, islands in Upper Tampa Bay.



***Mission:***

***To protect the natural resources of Hillsborough County through local control and regulation of activities that may cause pollution***

***Vision:***

***Environmental Excellence in a Changing World***

***Values:***

***Environmental stewardship, integrity, honesty, and a culture of fairness and cooperation***

Applications to request a field delineation, vegetation removal and other activities in wetlands are available on the web site or by calling 627-2600 X 1224.

**EPC of Hillsborough County**

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**813-627-2600  
[www.epchc.org](http://www.epchc.org)**



**DO I HAVE WETLANDS  
AND WHY ARE  
WETLANDS  
REGULATED?**