

# Vermont Wetlands Program



Figure 1: A floodplain forest in Shelburne.

## Vermont Significant Wetlands Inventory (VSWI) Map Updates in the Northern Lake Champlain Basin

1. The intent of the VSWI map is to provide the general location of many protected wetlands for planning purposes. Any property with mapped wetland has wetland and the map can be used as a planning tool. The exact boundaries of wetlands need to be determined in the field, during the growing season, with a wetland delineation. The map excludes infrastructure from wetland polygons in general. The Wetlands Program does not regulate non-wetland areas, such as roads, as wetland.
2. Some wetland types are more challenging to map and may be underrepresented in the map. The challenging wetland types to map include forested wetlands, riverine or riparian wetlands, and wetlands occurring within agricultural land use.
3. The update for this project used photographic interpretation and on-screen digitizing to identify wetlands. 138 field review points tested the presence of wetland on the map and the classification of the mapped wetlands following the National Wetlands Inventory map standard.
4. This mapping update will not make more wetlands regulated under the Vermont Wetland Rules. Rather, the mapping allows the State and the public to better identify which wetlands are already protected.
5. The map includes a total of 30,028 acres of wetland within the Northern Lake Champlain Basin, which is an approximate 11% increase in identified wetland from the previous map.
6. Over 8,494 acres of old wetland map areas were removed in the update. Often, the new aerial images and technology allowed for refinement of wetland boundaries.

# Vermont Wetlands Program



Figure 2: A map of the towns within the Northern Lake Champlain Basin's boundary.

**To receive this information in an alternative format or for other accessibility requests, please contact:**

Laura Lapierre, Wetlands Program Manager  
Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation  
[Laura.Lapierre@vermont.gov](mailto:Laura.Lapierre@vermont.gov), 802-490-6177