What You Can Do to Protect Wetlands On or Near Your Property.....

- Õ Install signage to designate and draw attention to preserved wetlands.
- Õ Refrain from dumping any soil, tree branches, leaves, grass clippings, kitchen scraps, or any other wastes into the wetland or buffer areas.
- Õ Keep, or create with native plants, at least a ten-foot un-mowed buffer area bordering the wetland. While wetlands can handle a large amount of pollutants, there is a limit to their capacity and so the buffer area will filter outmany pollutants before they enter the wetland.
- Õ Seek technical assistance from your Summit Soil & Water Conservation District, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, or Army Corps of Engineers, for technical assistance or addressing impacts, to make sure you are not affecting or harming a wetland and and advice on maintaining wetlands as Open Space and Wildlife Habitat areas.

Brought to you by:
Summit County Communities for Clean Storm Water
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WOW….Wonders of Wetlands!

Functions and Values of Wetlands:

Free services delivered by Wetlands:

- Water Quality-Wetland vegetation can filter and remove as much as 90% of dissolved nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorous, from any volume of water.
- Flood Control-An acre of wetland can store 1-1.5 million gallons of floodwater.
- Fish & Wildlife Habitat-Up to one-half of all American bird species nest or feed in wetlands, and wetlands are home to 31% of our plant species.
- National Economy-Wetland-related Ecotourism activities such as hunting, fishing, bird-watching, and photography can add as much as $59 billion annually.
- Water Resources-Wetlands maintain surface-water flow during dry periods.
- Research & Education-Wetlands provide ample opportunities for teachers and students to observe the natural history and life cycles of diverse species.

Threats to Wetlands:

- Deposition of fill material for development.
- Drainage for development, farming, and mosquito control.
- Dredging and stream channelization for navigation, development, and flood control.
- Diking & damming to form ponds and lakes.
- Diversion of flow to or from wetlands.
- Addition of impervious surfaces in the watershed which will increase water and pollutant runoff into wetlands.
- Pollution Inputs such as sediment, fertilizer, human sewage, animal waste, road salts, pesticides, heavy metals and selenium from mining areas, and toxic leaching from landfills.
- Vegetation damage by grazing of domestic animals, and introduction of non-native, invasive plants.