

1 AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM IDENTIFICATION CHART

| | | Where is it located? | There is open water | Lots of peat (spongy ground) | Trees growing out of the water | Other plants growing out of the water | Shallow Water (< 1.5 meters deep in the middle) | Deep Water (>1.5 meters/ over your head) | Fast flowing water |
|---------------|---|--|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------|
| Peatlands |  <p>Bog</p> <p><i>Acidic, nutrient-poor wetlands full of layers of peat with no large areas of open water</i></p> | These wetlands mainly form in the Boreal Forest, but are also found in the Rocky Mountains, Foothills, Aspen Parkland, and Canadian Shield | | X | | | X | | |
| |  <p>Fen</p> <p><i>Wetlands with many layers of peat. The water comes from a supply of groundwater or surface water with high diversity of plants and animals</i></p> <p><small>Photo credit: Christopher Porter</small></p> | | | X | | | X | | |
| |  <p>Swamp</p> <p><i>Nutrient-rich wetlands with a high diversity of plants and animals</i></p> <p><small>Photo credit: Rick Courtney</small></p> | | X | | X | | X | | X |
| Non-Peatlands |  <p>Marsh</p> <p><i>Open water surrounded by emergent plant zones</i></p> | These wetlands can occur in any of Alberta's Natural Regions | X | | | X | X | | |
| |  <p>Shallow Open Water</p> <p><i>Small body of still or gently flowing water</i></p> | | X | | | X | X | | |
| |  <p>Lake</p> <p><i>Large open bodies of shallow to very deep water</i></p> | Found in all natural regions | X | | | | | X | |
| |  <p>River/Stream</p> <p><i>Waterbody with running/ flowing water and no aquatic plants</i></p> | | X | | | | X | X | X |
| |  <p>Stormwater Pond</p> <p><i>Areas created by humans to collect rain to divert water from urban environments and prevent flooding</i></p> <p><small>Photo credit: Qualico Communities</small></p> | Found in urban environments | X | | | X | | X | |

This chart is a guideline only