Oko Environmental, LLC

Springfield Township Wetlands Report

October 2026

Location: Springfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan
Michigan Wetlands ID: 75760
Total Township Acreage: 23,426 acres

According to Michigan's Wetlands Map Viewer, Springfield Township has lost an estimated 53% of its historical wetlands. Before widespread European settlement in the early 1800s, the township is estimated to have contained approximately 5,569 acres of wetlands. More recent mapping identifies just 2,590 acres, representing a loss of nearly 3,000 acres over roughly two centuries.

Wetland Acreage	
Existing Wetlands:	2,590 acres
Historic Wetlands:	5,569 acres
Wetlands Loss/Gain:	-2,979 acres (-53%)

However, the loss of wetlands extends well beyond the acreage itself. These ecosystems play an important role in maintaining water quality, storing floodwater, regulating streamflow, and supporting wildlife. EGLE's landscape-level assessment estimates a 23% reduction in combined water quality functions, including a 27% reduction in floodwater storage functions and a 38% reduction in nutrient transformation functions. The assessment also identifies an estimated 28% overall reduction in wildlife habitat functions, including losses associated with forest birds (57%), shorebirds (43%), and fish (17%).

Hydrological & Water Quality Loss/Gain	
Water Quality Combined:	-23%
Floodwater Storage:	-27%
Streamflow Maintenance:	-12%
Nutrient Transformation:	-38%
Sediment Retention:	-16%
Shoreline Stabilization:	-9%

Wildlife Habitat Loss/Gain	
Habitat Combined:	-28%
Fish:	-17%
Waterfowl:	-12%
Shorebird:	-43%
Forest Bird:	-57%
Amphibian:	-8%

Historically, wetland loss in Michigan has been associated with agricultural drainage, land conversion, road construction, and residential and commercial development. However, wetlands do not have to be filled or excavated to be lost or degraded. Changes to natural drainage patterns, groundwater levels, and surrounding land use can disrupt the hydrology that supports these ecosystems, affecting their ability to function. While these factors may help explain historical wetland loss in Springfield Township, the available mapping data do not identify the specific causes or timing of these losses.

Wetland loss affects more than acreage. It reduces the natural systems that help manage flooding, maintain water quality, and support wildlife. Understanding these historical changes is important when evaluating future land-use decisions in Springfield Township.

Source: Michigan EGLE Wetlands Map Viewer. Historical wetland acreage and ecological functions are GIS-based estimates; mapped existing acreage does not necessarily represent 2026 conditions.