



Ayer Conservation Commission Public Meeting  
June 20, 2019  
Wetlands Bylaw

## What are Wetlands?

A wetland is defined as any land area that is saturated or flooded with water, either seasonally or permanently. They can be either inland such as lakes, aquifers and marshes or coastal, as mangroves, estuaries and coral reefs.



Rice  
paddies

Lakes  
and Ponds

Marshes,  
Swamps and  
Floodplains

Rivers

Lagoons and  
Mangroves

Saltwater  
marshes  
and Salt pans

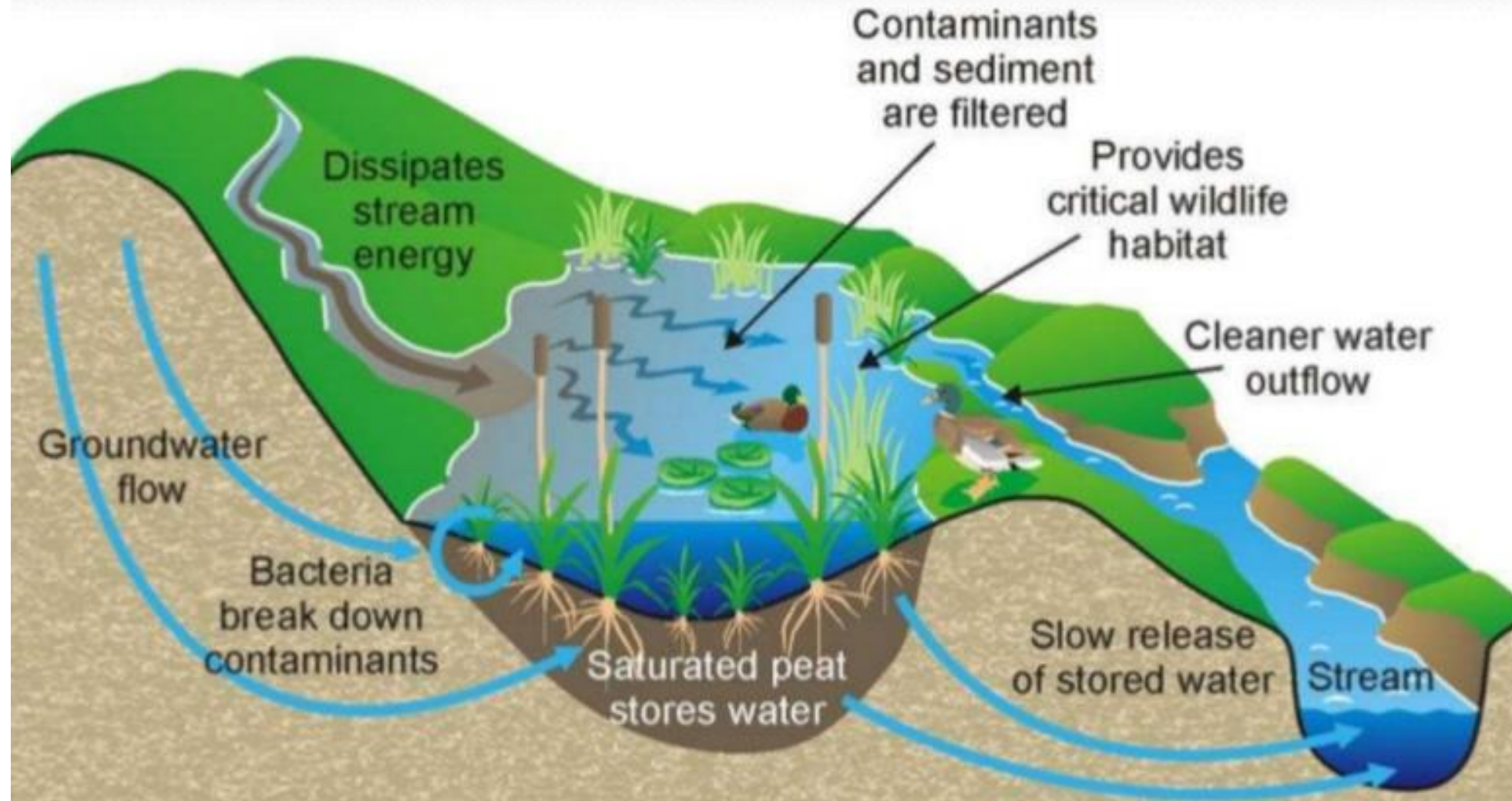
Estuaries

Coral reefs

Groundwater aquifers



# How wetlands work



*How wetlands work*



# Benefits of Wetlands



Wetlands act as sponges, temporarily storing flood waters and releasing them slowly, thus reducing flood damage.

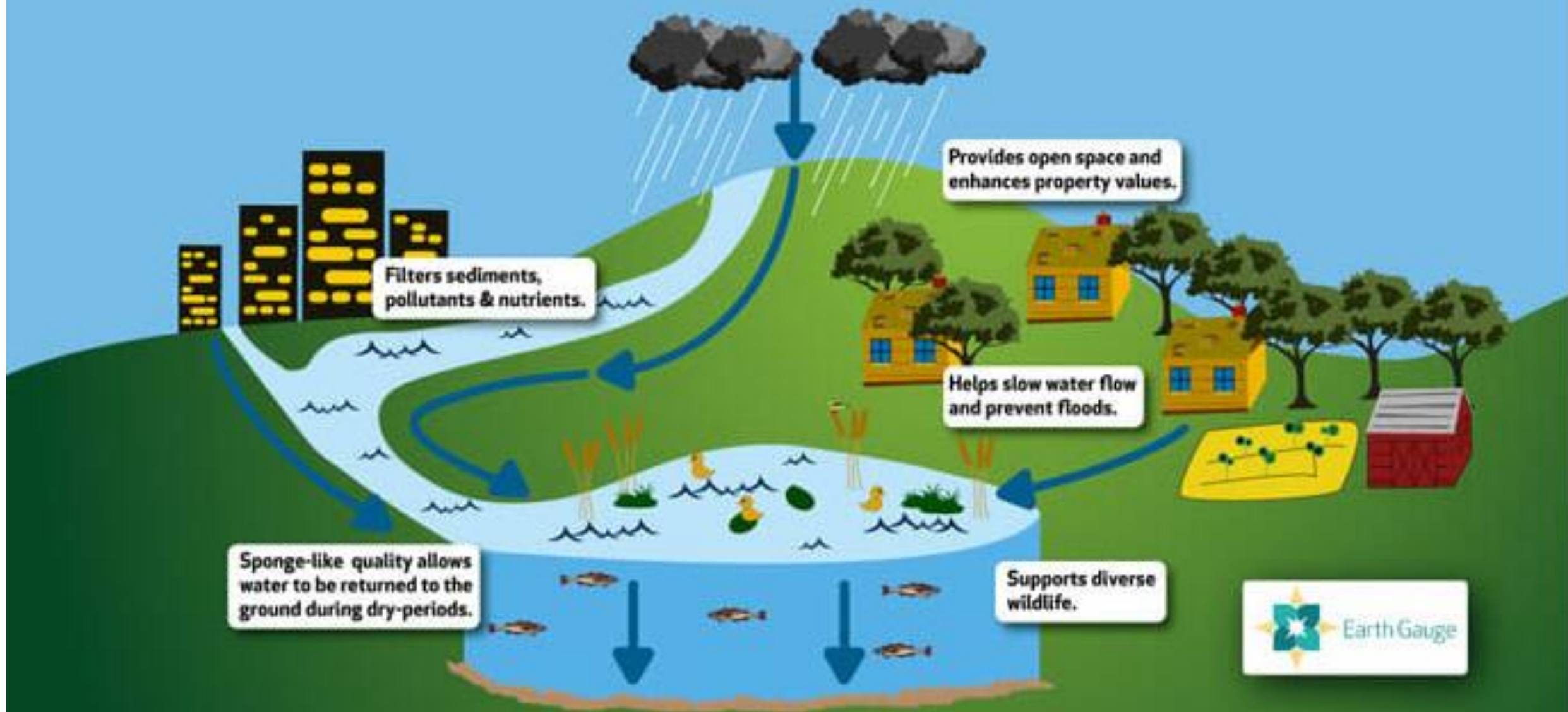
Wetlands create tremendous recreational, research, and tourism opportunities.

Wetlands act as "nature's kidneys" by removing pollutants, such as nutrients and sediments, from water flowing through them.

Wetlands are considered "nature's nurseries" by providing critical habitat for fish, wildlife, and waterfowl.

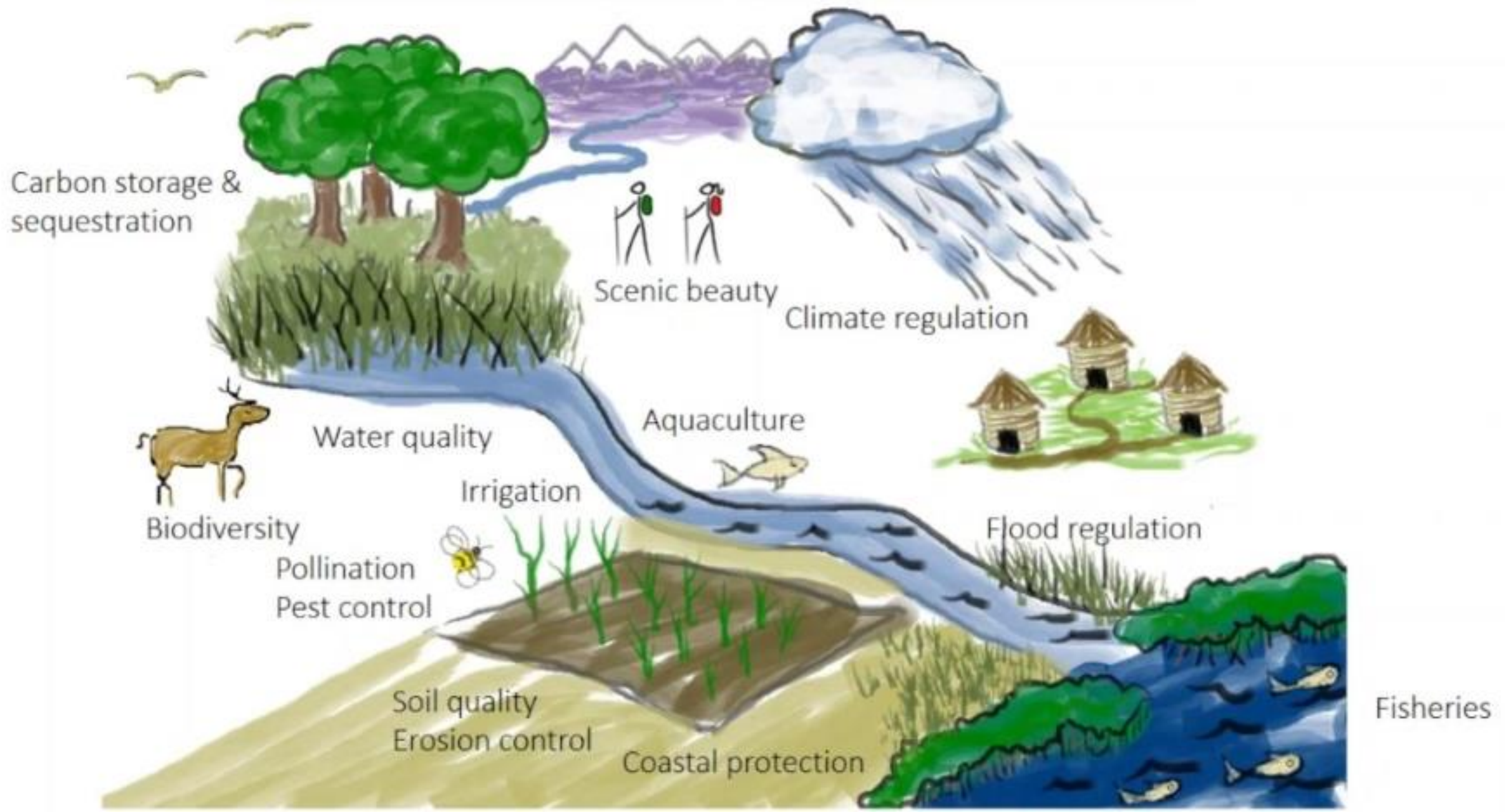
Wetlands provide protection from storms and ice by absorbing wave energy and buffering shorelines against erosion.

# Benefits of Wetlands



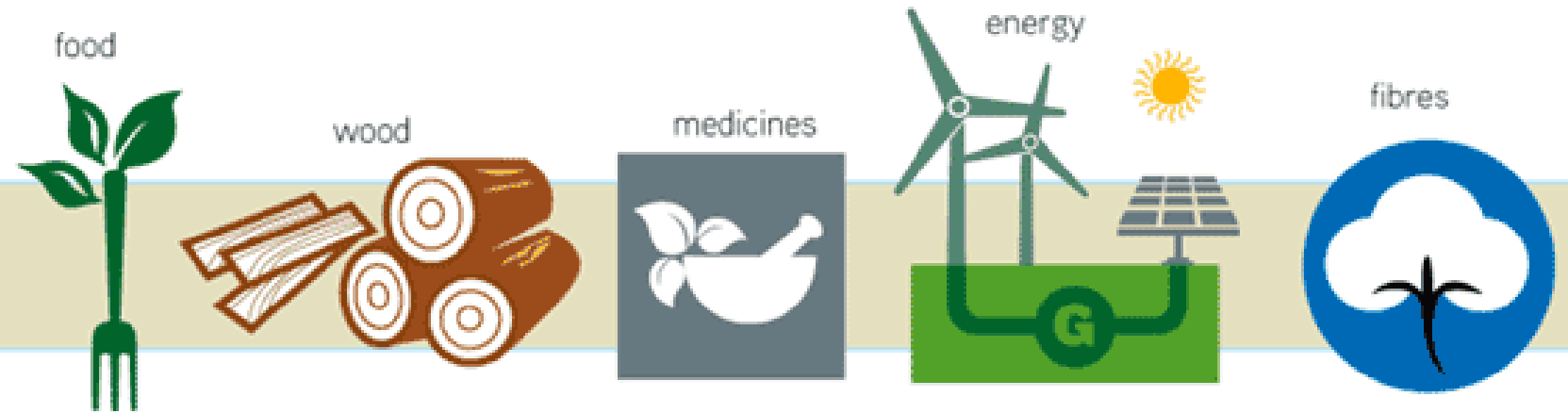


# WHAT ARE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES?

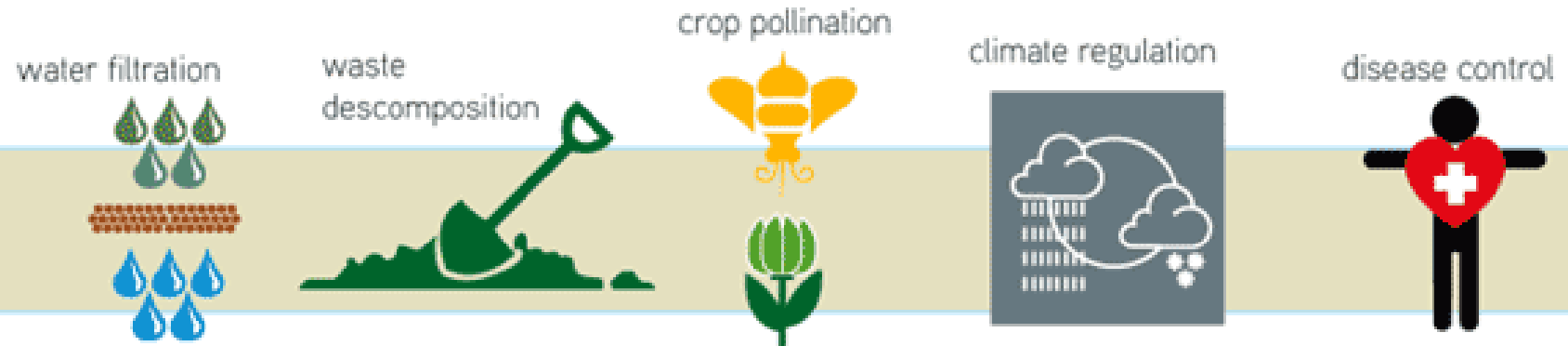


# WHAT DO WE GET FROM **ECOSYSTEMS**?

## PROVISIONING SERVICES



## REGULATING SERVICES



## CULTURAL SERVICES

