

Where to see Wetlands in Denver



Parkfield Lake Natural Area is one of Denver's most biologically diverse wetlands. The park contains 109 species of plants, including floating green mats of duckweed and the world's smallest flowering plant: watermeal.



Westerly Creek is a restored wetland with 91 plant species, including a rare plant tracked by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program: sweetflag.



Bear Creek Park contains both riparian wetlands and emergent marshes. This combination creates habitat for 98 species of plants. The rich wetlands provide shelter, breeding grounds, and food for the rare Northern Leopard Frog (on front cover) and dragonflies like the common green darner (at left).

For a Map of Denver Wetlands go to www.fws.gov/wetlands/. This brochure was produced by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency, and the City and County of Denver. For a full report on the condition of Denver Wetlands visit www.cnhp.colostate.edu.

Denver Wetlands: Wet & Wild in the City



Denver Wetlands Work for Us

Recreation

Denver County is home to approximately 2,500 acres of wetlands. They offer a natural space in the heart of the city where we can jog, hike and fish with our friends and family.



Fishing fun at **Smith Lake in Washington Park**. Wetlands in Denver provide places to connect with nature in an urban environment.



Cattails, bulrushes, and sedges are among the most common plants in Denver's urban wetlands, including **Berkeley Lake Park**. These plants grow in soils that are seasonally or permanently saturated with water.

Wildlife Habitat

Wetlands provide food and shelter for birds, frogs, foxes, and a variety of other animals. In Colorado's dry climate, most wildlife species depend on wetlands at some point in their lives.



Mallard ducklings at **City Park**. Aquatic plants and insects are a source of food for ducks.



Red-winged blackbirds at **Bluff Lake** rely on cattails for successful breeding.

Improve Water Quality

Denver's rainwater and snowmelt flow over pavement, collecting pollutants. The soil and plants in our wetlands filter this runoff, improving water quality.



Plains cottonwood and coyote willow growing along **Cherry Creek** act as filters that improve water quality.



A Black-crowned Night Heron forages at **Ferril Lake in City Park**.



Want to know more about the condition of Denver's wetlands?

Visit www.cnhp.colostate.edu

Flood Control

When rivers and streams flood, wetlands provide a place for storm water to collect, other than in your basement. Wetlands soak up floodwater, spread it out, and slow it down.



In 2014, the South Platte and its tributaries experienced massive flooding. Wetlands slowed and stored floodwaters, buffering the city.

What you can do to help wetlands

- Be an advocate for wetland protection.
- Limit the use of chemicals on your lawn.
- Do not mow the edge of a wetland.
- Plant native species.