

Chestnut Grove Natural Area

WETLAND ECOSYSTEM "NATURE'S SPONGE"



CGNA wetland

WHAT ARE WETLANDS?

- Wetlands are lands covered by water or have waterlogged soils for long periods of time during the growing season.
- Wetlands consists of hydric soils. Hydric soils are permanently or seasonally saturated by water, which results in anaerobic (without air) conditions.
- Soft stem bulrush, soft rush, blue flag iris, silky dogwood, winterberry and red maples are a few examples of wetland plants.



soft stem bulrush



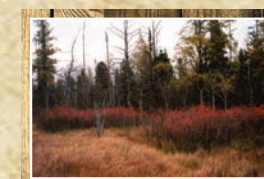
soft rush



blue flag iris



silky dogwood



winterberry



red maple



red spotted newt



northern leopard frog



Eastern painted turtle



red winged blackbird



mallard duck



wood duck



muskrat



raccoon



white-tailed deer

WETLAND BENEFITS:

- This ecosystem is an extremely valuable natural resource at the CGNA.
- The wetlands provide critical habitat for fish, wildlife and a variety of plants.
- The wetlands hold and slowly release flood water and snow melt, recharge groundwater, act as filters to cleanse water of impurities and recycle nutrients.
- The wetlands also provide wildlife viewing opportunities for animals such as salamanders, frogs, birds and many other species.

TYPES OF WETLANDS:

- Bottomland forests, pine savannahs, bogs, wet meadows, potholes, and wet tundra are several types of wetlands
- Wetlands vary widely due to regional and local differences in soils, topography, climate, hydrology, water chemistry, vegetation, and human disturbance.



bottomland Forest



bog



wet meadow



wet tundra

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: www.nrcs.usda.gov
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: www.fws.gov/wetlands

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