

WETLANDS IN THE DISTRICT



300 acres of mapped wetlands



100% of District wetlands are protected by Federal/District regulations



>35 Species of Greatest Conservation Need rely on wetlands



Numerous Economic, Cultural, and Environmental Values



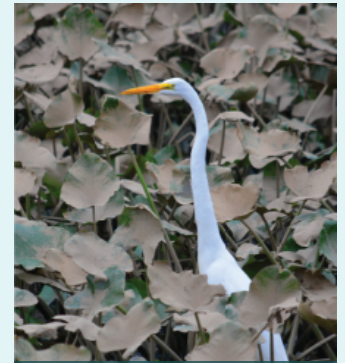
Female red-winged blackbird perched on seeding cattail

Fast Facts about District Wetlands

70% occur on National Park Service property

92% occur within 500 feet of urban development

Almost **90%** of tidal wetlands have been lost to historical dredge/fill on the Anacostia River



Great egret stalking in a spatterdock marsh

A Variety of Wetland Habitat

From the sunken gardens of Kenilworth freshwater marshes to the symphony of frog calls from the Arboretum vernal pools, District wetlands are alive with color and sound. Anacostia tidal or Rock Creek non-tidal, seasonal or perennial, wetland habitats can vary, but the underlying commonality is their defining hydrologic, floral, and geologic features.

Urban Wetlands are Prized Refuges

Urban development can encroach on green space, but the District's wetlands are still a refuge for wildlife. From the beaver dams in the National Arboretum's Springhouse Run to the waterfowl nesting in Theodore Roosevelt Island marshes, many species call our wetlands home. DOEE's Wetland Conservation Plan establishes the goal of no net loss and net gain of wetland acreage and functions. Through federal and District regulations, DOEE regulates wetland impacts to support this target. Despite the proximity to urban life, District wetlands can continue to thrive with the help of environmental stewards.

Wetlands Work to Our Benefit

District wetlands are critical to climate resiliency. Wetlands combat urban heat island effect, improve water quality, and offer education and recreation opportunities. Floodplain wetlands like those on the banks of the Potomac absorb flood waters, protecting people and property. In many forested areas like Fort Dupont, groundwater seeps supply flow to streams feeding the Anacostia, crucial during drought conditions.

The **Aquatic Resources Registry** contains all the mapped wetlands in the District and some of their features. Find one near you!