

# Preserving WETLANDS

## WHY ARE WETLANDS IMPORTANT?

Northern Leopard Frog



### BIODIVERSITY

Wetlands are critical for maintaining biological diversity on Earth. As highly abundant and productive ecosystems, wetlands support a diversity of frogs, turtles, bats, mammals, insects, and plants. You can observe biodiversity here at Nine Springs Marsh.



Virginia Rail

### BIRD HABITAT

Many species of birds use wetlands for shelter, water, food, and raising young. Shorebirds rely on exposed mudflat areas to forage for insects.



Pectoral Sandpiper



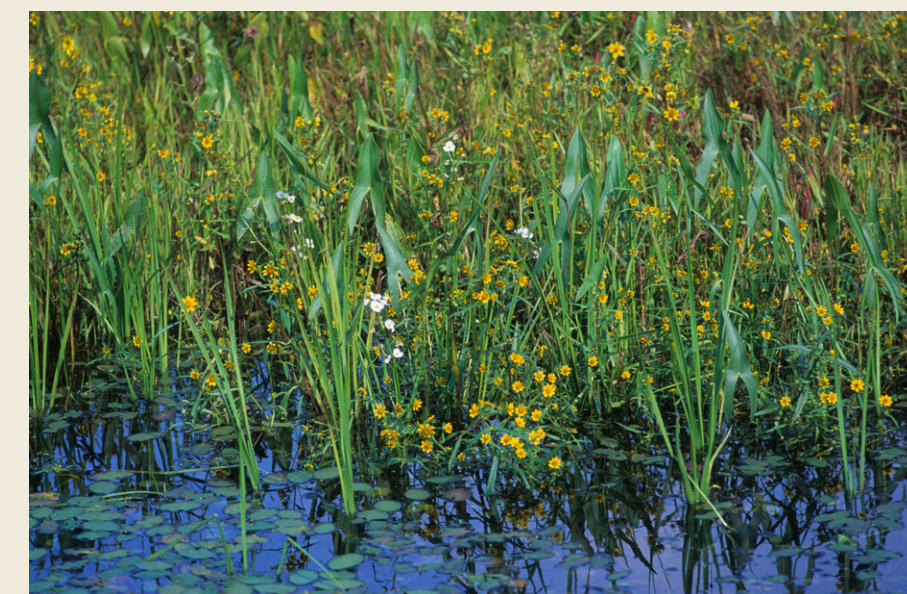
Observation Area lagoons

### FLOOD MITIGATION

During severe storms, wetlands can act like sponges, holding back excess water, slowing flow, and filtering pollutants that can harm connected streams and lakes.



Nine Springs Creek



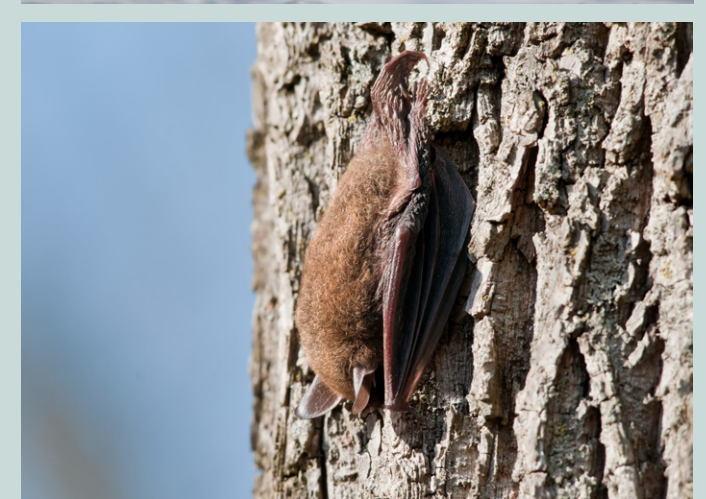
### CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Through photosynthesis, wetland plants sequester (capture and store) carbon from the atmosphere. Wetlands can hold carbon in plant vegetation, peat, and sediments for many years.



Bebb's Sedge

Southern Blue Flag Iris



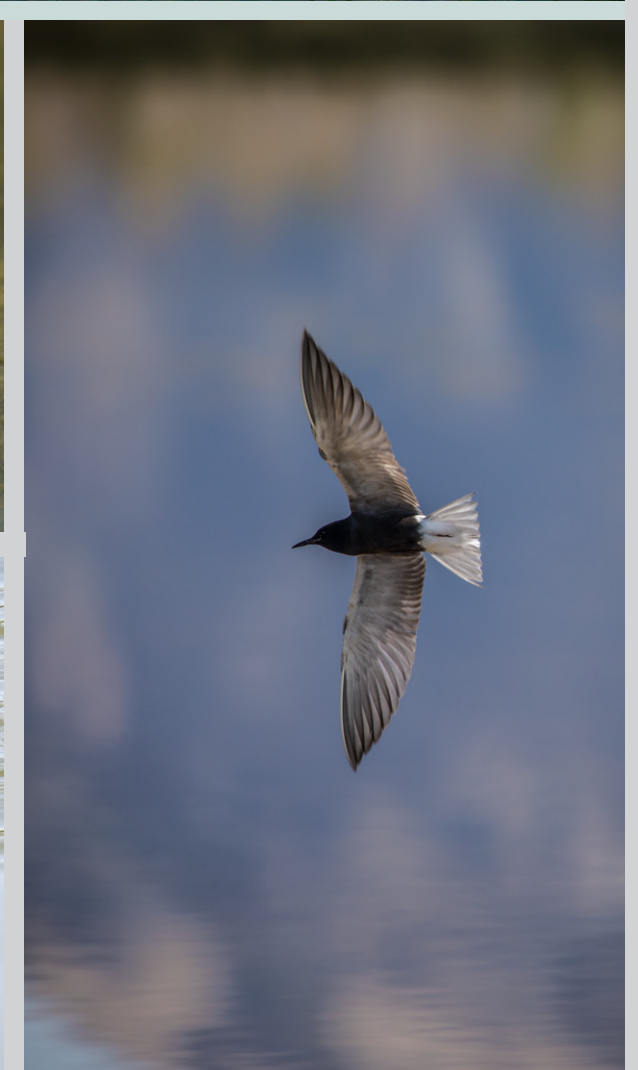
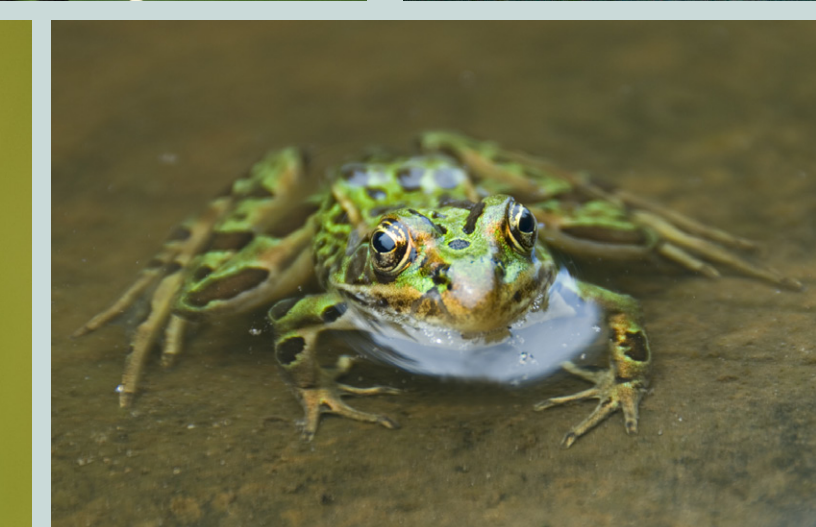
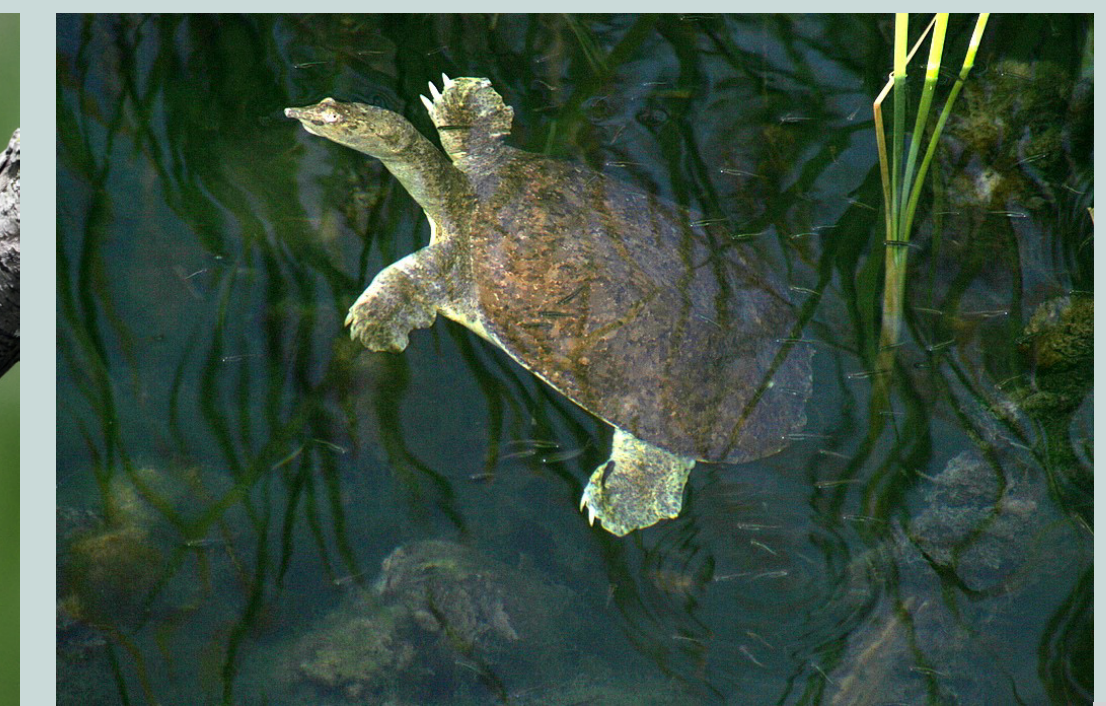
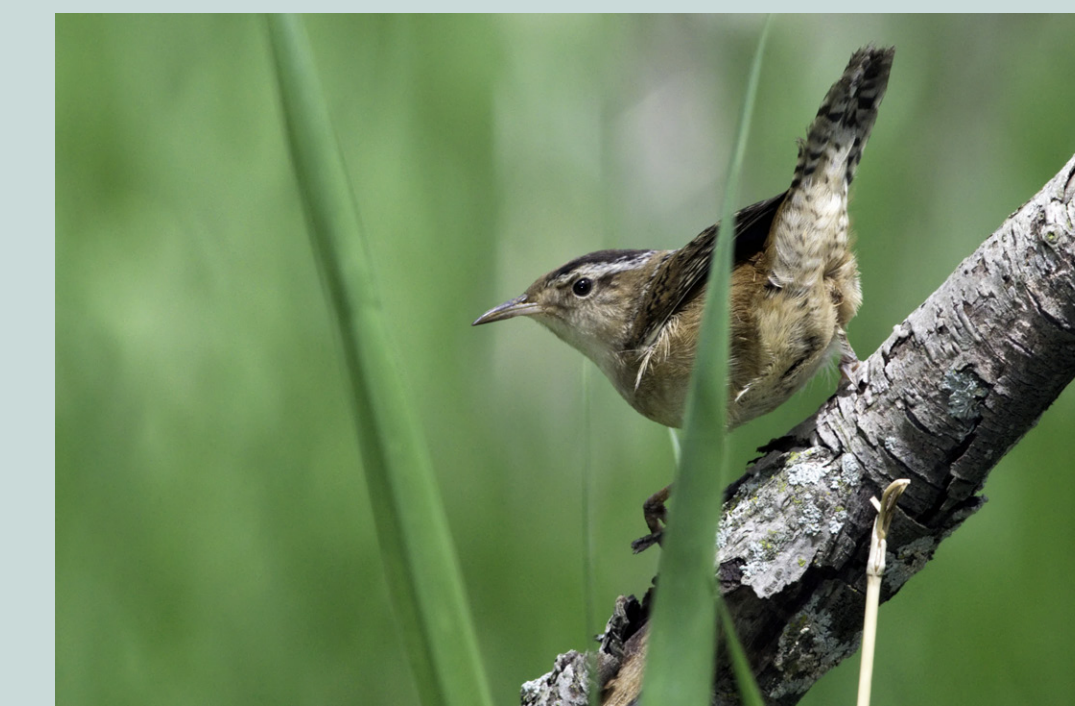
## OBSERVE WETLAND WILDLIFE

*Above, clockwise from top left*

American Beaver, Northern Shovelers, Green Heron, Common Merganser, Little Brown Bat, Semipalmated Plover

*Below, clockwise from top left*

Marsh Wren, Spiny Softshell Turtle, Black Tern, Muskrat, Halloween Pennant, Northern Leopard Frog



## PARTNERS AT WORK FOR WETLANDS

Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District



The partners of Capital Springs Recreation Area are committed to wetland protection. Enjoy your own exploration of the wetlands of Capital Springs, and get connected to its wildlife.

## THE BEAUTY OF WETLANDS

- ❖ **HEAR** the wave of sedges, rushes, cattails, and wildflowers caught in an afternoon summer breeze.
- ❖ **FEEL** the chill of the marsh in early morning while shorebirds probe earnestly on mudflats, murmuring softly on their way.
- ❖ **CATCH SIGHT OF** the “winged jewels” of the marsh—insects of every description and color—as they dart over a sun-filled, shimmering pool.

**IMAGE CREDITS** Iris: Madelyn Sarduy. Frog: Robert Boszhardt (USFWS). Rail, dragonfly (2), frog: Richard Armstrong. Bat: Kelly Colgan Azar. Lagoons, creek, peeper, beaver, heron, tern: Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area. Wetland (2): Joshua Mayer. Sedge: Gary Fewless. Fog: Linda Mittnacht. Shovelers: Steve Balcombe. Sandpiper, merganser, wren, turtle, muskrat: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Plover: Eric Ellingson.

