

Keeping Wetlands Healthy



Healthy Wetlands: What can you do?

- Recognize and protect local small wetlands in your neighborhood.
- Prevent storm water runoff from going directly into wetlands.
 - Participate in stormwater improvement programs
- Avoid polluting local storm water:
 - Do not use fertilizer near wetlands & areas draining to wetlands
 - Do not pour used oil, paint, or other chemicals into storm drains
 - Pick-up & properly dispose of pet waste
- Promote wetland restoration in areas previously drained.
- Promote an ethic of wetland values, not simply needing improved through drainage.
- Use native vegetation as buffers, including along shorelines and streams, instead of hard materials. Buffers of 100 – 300' recommended, depending on habitat-type.

Healthy Wetlands: What can you do?

- Eliminate non-native, invasive species, including:
 - Reed Canary Grass
 - Cattail
 - Phragmites
 - Purple Loosestrife
- Replace with native species like:
 - Marsh Milkweed
 - Bottle Gentian
 - Big Bluestem
 - Prairie Dropseed
- Volunteer at local parks & natural areas to help control invasive species



Native Bottle Gentian. Photo courtesy of Mark Mittelstadt, Robert W. Freckmann Herbarium, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Healthy Wetlands: Avoiding Invasive Species



Purple Loosestrife



European Common Reed



Reed Canary Grass



Cattail



Autumn / Russian Olive



Honeysuckle



Garlic Mustard



Glossy Buckthorn



Multiflora Rose



Callery Pear

All images courtesy of IDEM

Healthy Wetlands: What can you do?

- Add additional native wetland vegetation to the area to promote diversity
 - Pollinator gardens
 - Rain gardens
 - Bioswales



Poor Diversity (Monoculture), image courtesy of IDEM



High Diversity Wetland, image courtesy of IDEM



This was a wet area in a field that was sometimes farmed. We squared off 5 acres and put an agri-drain structure on the downstream end of the 6-inch tile. We then connected a tile to the upstream inlet tile and routed it and connected to the outlet tile past the structure. This allowed the wetland to have multiple water levels for wildlife and maintenance purposes. Because the existing treed area was considered a wetland the farmer was able to enroll the 5-acre buffer into CRP.



Satisfied Customers

Thank you!