



## WETLANDS

### Preserving Our Water Quality

Wetlands are areas that are saturated with water, either periodically or permanently. They also contain numerous plant and animal species and are one of the most biologically diverse of all ecosystems. In recognition of the multitude of ecological functions and human values provided by wetlands, and the need for ensuring that wetland communities are preserved, government agencies have established wetland protection programs.



*Cattails*



*Common Threesquare*

Wetlands improve water quality by trapping and breaking down contaminants found in stormwater run-off. These areas provide essential habitat for fish, birds, amphibians, and small mammals. Wetlands provide erosion control along the banks of lakes and ponds by acting as a buffer to floods, wind, and waves. They also capture run-off and slowly release it, preventing flood-like flows into surrounding areas.

The broadleaf and narrowleaf cattail community dominates the wetlands at the Marjorie Perry Nature Preserve. Non-native species such as teasel and Russian olive are commonly seen as scattered individuals or in dense monocultures on the perimeter of the broadleaf and narrowleaf cattail community.

The sedge/rush wetland community is dominant around the borders of the broadleaf and narrowleaf cattail community. Native graminoids such as common threesquare, softstem bulrush, and clustered field sedge are the dominant plant species in this community.



*American Bulrush*

Currently, wetland and riparian areas within the MPNP are disturbed primarily by recreation activity (i.e., social trails). Noxious, invasive plant species also damage the wetland communities within the MPNP. Plans to restore and enhance degraded wetland and riparian areas have been implemented.



*Smooth Cordgrass*

Replacement plantings near the ponds will discourage visitors from forming new social trails along the shorelines, impacting water quality and habitat effectiveness. Shoreline habitat can be improved further by leaving downed trees and logs for perching and sunning waterfowl, amphibians, and reptiles.