

# Wetland Habitats

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Do you have a small, unruly pond or an overgrown wet area? Consider turning it into a Wetland Habitat! Plants like Broomsedge, Cattails, Duckweed, and Water Violets can make your problem spot a beautiful habitat for pollinators, small aquatic life, and mammals.

For a small pond, choose compact, wildlife-friendly, native plants that maintain balance and biodiversity and control erosion.

**Key Plant Categories:** Oxygenators, Floating Plants, Marginals, Miniature Water Lilies. Both oxygenating and non-oxygenating plants help prevent erosion.

If an area or pond receives full sun and drains extremely slowly, the plants must adapt to wet conditions and thrive in heat and humidity.

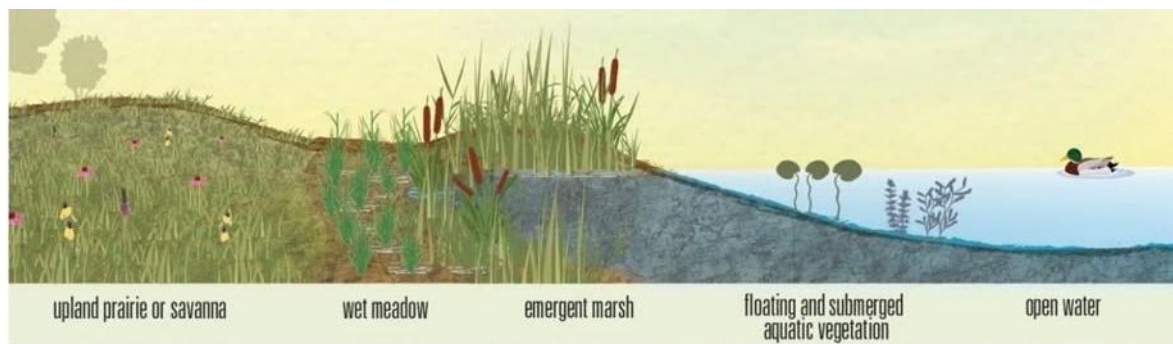
**Definition of a Pond:** Ponds are small bodies of still water, natural or artificially created. They can function as wetlands, providing habitat and water filtration. Ponds are: 1) Shallower than lakes. 2) Ranging from 1 to 12 acres. 3) Limited water circulation.

**Wetland Habitats:** BOTH ponds and wetlands provide wildlife habitat, support biodiversity, and contribute to water quality and food mitigation.

**Three characteristics determine whether your problem area is a pond or an existing wetland:**

- 1) Hydrology – Soil is saturated for a large portion of the year.
- 2) Soil – Hydric soils that remain waterlogged long enough to create anaerobic conditions.
- 3) Vegetation - Host plants adapt to saturated soils. (Ex: Cattails, Sedges, and Bulrushes)

Small ponds can support turtles, fish, frogs, newts, dragonflies, and pollinators. Water plants provide shelter, safe spawning areas, and protection for young waterfowls. Ponds can be beautiful and enjoyed in all seasons.



*Photo by maweb.org*