



# Wetlands

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Environmental  
superheroes!



## What are wetlands?

A wetland, is an ecosystem that is flooded or saturated by water, either permanently or seasonally.

Wetlands, which are fluctuating ecosystems inherently difficult to categorize, are often found at the intersection of terrestrial habitat and aquatic habitat and usually include elements of both systems. Many wetlands are unique to a certain degree, as their individual characteristics are determined by a combination of factors such as climate, soils, hydrology, and vegetation.

One of the most important factors that determines the overall nature of a wetland, however, is hydrology, since the timing, quantity, and duration of water flow strongly influences both abiotic and biotic factors within a wetland.

What are kinds of wetlands?

Swamps

Bogs

Saltwater  
marsh

Freshwater  
marsh

Fen

Intermittent  
wetland



# Swamps

A swamp is a forested wetland that is a transition zone with both land and water playing a role in creating the environment. Swamp water may be fresh water, brackish water, or seawater.



# Bogs

A bog is a wetland that accumulates peat from a deposit of dead plant materials – often mosses, typically sphagnum moss. Bogs are also called boglands, mire, mosses, quagmire, and muskeg; bogs are acidic.



# Marsh

A marsh is a wetland dominated by herbaceous plants such as grasses, rushes or reeds, rather than woody plants. Marshes often form a transition between the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.





# Fen

A fen is a peat-accumulating wetland fed by mineral-rich ground or surface water. Fens are alkaline.





## Intermittent wetland

An intermittent wetland is a sedge- and herb-dominated wetland with fluctuating water levels, seasonally and interannually. One kind of intermittent wetland in Texas are playas.



# What ecosystem services do wetlands provide?

Wetland functions—processes performed for ecosystems--include nutrient cycling, flood-flow alteration, sediment stabilization and habitat.

Wetland values—processes that benefit society--include improving water quality, providing economic benefits for wetland-dependent businesses, stabilizing levels of carbon dioxide, reducing flood damage, and providing recreation opportunities.



# Texas Wetlands

Riparian areas

Playa lakes

Freshwater marshes

Saline and brackish marshes

Deepwater swamps

# Who lives in the wetland?

Typical wetland inhabitants include:

Muskrat, Great Blue Heron, Mink, Mallards, Smallmouth Bass, American Coot, Bullfrog, Red-bellied Water Snake, Red-winged Blackbird and Hardstem Bullrushes





# Examples of Texas wetland inhabitants:

Texas wetland inhabitants include Whooping crane, Piping plover, common raccoon, Texas diamondback terrapin, Atlantic croaker, Lightning whelk, Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle, Seagrass, Stone crab and Black necked stilt.



# Finger wetlands

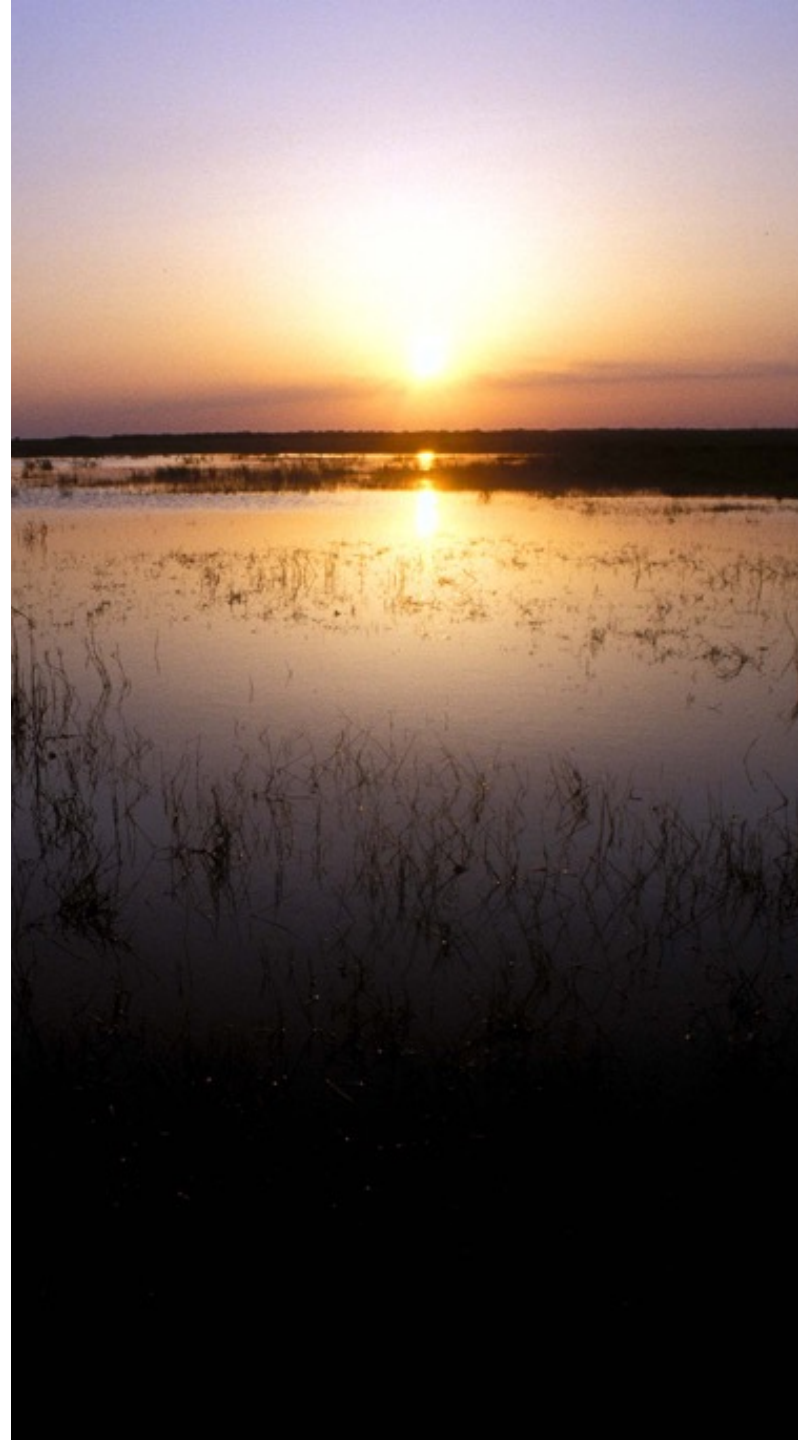
A wetland holds water sometimes or all year ,  
(hands clasping)

And if you watch closely wildlife will appear.  
((pointing to eyes))



# Singing wetlands—to *Clementine*

Oh, the wetlands keep Earth healthy,  
Manage nutrients, sediments well.  
Mitigate the flooding waters  
And a wildlife hotel!







# PHP wetland

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The Hardberger Park Wetland is located by the parking lot for the NW Military recreation area.



You can make a wetlands mural!













Edible  
wetlands....



# Books

