

# WHAT ARE WETLANDS?

Wetlands are places filled with water (seasonally, year-round, or intermittently). They are found as part of many different types of habitats. Wetlands can be vast, or they can be small and seemingly insignificant.



## WHY WE CARE

Wetlands provide great volumes of food that attract many animals, and provide shelter for **50%** of species with small or declining populations in Indiana, including **79** Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

For example, there are fewer than 20 remaining sites in the world where Mitchell's Satyr butterflies exist. They spend most of their lives as caterpillars and rely on clean water and healthy wetland habitats to survive.

## HABITAT TYPES

BOGS, SWAMPS, FENS, MARSHES, MUDFLATS, PRAIRIE POTHOLES, FLOODPLAINS, WETLANDS ON FARMED AREAS, AND MORE!

WETLANDS, WHICH ONCE COVERED **25% OF INDIANA** NOW COVER JUST **3.5% OF THE STATE**

## SAFE HAVENS FOR WILDLIFE

EVEN SMALL, ISOLATED WETLANDS ARE IMPORTANT, OFTEN SERVING AS THE ONLY REFUGE FOR RELATIVELY IMMOBILE REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS, SUCH AS SALAMANDERS.

WETLANDS ARE LIKE **BIOLOGICAL SUPERMARKETS**

## LEAST BITTERN

This endangered water bird is a rare sighting for wildlife enthusiasts due to its amazing camouflage and elusive habits. Unlike most heron species, it has short legs and prefers to climb on cattails and reeds rather than wading in shallow water.

## NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG

These frogs rely on wetlands during the spring and fall. In the summer, they move into open grassy areas. Like most amphibians, they breathe through their skin and rely on clean, healthy habitats.

## BLUE-WINGED TEAL

These ducks have striking blue feathers that can only be seen when flying. During the breeding season, they prefer to stay in seasonally flooded prairie "potholes" in parts of the Great Plains. They are an important species to hunters because of their early migration.

## BLUE-SPOTTED SALAMANDER

These large salamanders need isolated, seasonal wetlands without fish to lay their eggs. Their bright blue spots warn predators that they are an unpleasant meal, as they can make a milky toxin when threatened.



LeARN MORE

# TAKE THE INDIANA WETLANDS CHALLENGE!

