

Native Wetland Plant List

Plant Name Scientific Name

Wet Prairie Wetland

Marsh Hay Cordgrass	(<i>Spartina patens</i>)
Switchgrass	(<i>Panicum virgatum</i>)
Gamma Grass	(<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>)

Emergent Wetland

Cutgrass	(<i>Zizaniopsis miliacea</i>)
Maidencane	(<i>Panicum hemitomon</i>)
Bull tongue	(<i>Sagittaria lancifolia</i>)
Coastal Water Hissop	(<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>)
Thinscale Sedge	(<i>Carex hyalinolepis</i>)
Black Needlerush	(<i>Juncus roemerianus</i>)
Jamaica Sawgrass	(<i>Cladium jamaicense</i>)
Grassy Arrowhead	(<i>Sagittaria graminea.</i>)
Pickereel Weed	(<i>Pontederia cordata</i>)
Powdery Thalia	(<i>Thalia dealbata</i>)
Canna	(<i>Canna glauca</i>)
Swamp Lily	(<i>Crinum americanum</i>)
Southern Blue Iris	(<i>Iris virginica</i>)
Square-stemmed spikerush	(<i>Eleocharis quadrangulata</i>)
Spikerushes	(<i>Eleocharis spp.</i>)
Spider Lily	(<i>Hymenocallis liriosme</i>)

Floating/Submerged Aquatic

Floating Seedbox	(<i>Ludwigia pepiodes</i>)
Pondweed	(<i>Potamogeton sp.</i>)
Smartweed	(<i>Polygonum</i>)



Coastal Water Hissop,
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Jamaica
Sawgrass
Copyright 2001, University
of Florida



Pickereel Weed

Pickereel Weed
Photograph courtesy
Photo by Ann Murray
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What are Wetlands?

Simply put, wetlands are “in-between” areas that have something of both dry uplands and open water environments: they are neither “land” nor “water” - they are a **transition zone**. The **hydrology** of a wetland (how much water it gets and how long it stays there) is the most important factor that determines its character. Because oxygen does not move very fast in water, water saturation very quickly results in a soil conditions with very low oxygen content. A lack of oxygen kills most plants. **Hydrophytic** or **wetland vegetation** is the only kind of vegetation that can survive in these conditions.

Wetland scientists use wetland hydrology, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydric soils to help them determine whether a given area is a wetland and the kind of wetland it is.

Why are Wetlands important?

There are many different kinds of wetlands and they all perform ecological functions, and produce certain goods and services that are valuable to humans, including:

- *Water quality*
- *Nurseries*
- *Flood buffers*
- *Wildlife Habitat*
- *Erosion Control*
- *Recreation*



Yellow Crowned Night Heron, a native wetland bird
Picture by Milt Gray, Wetland Restoration Team member



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TEXAS COASTAL WATERSHED
P R O G R A M

WETLAND RESTORATION AND EDUCATION

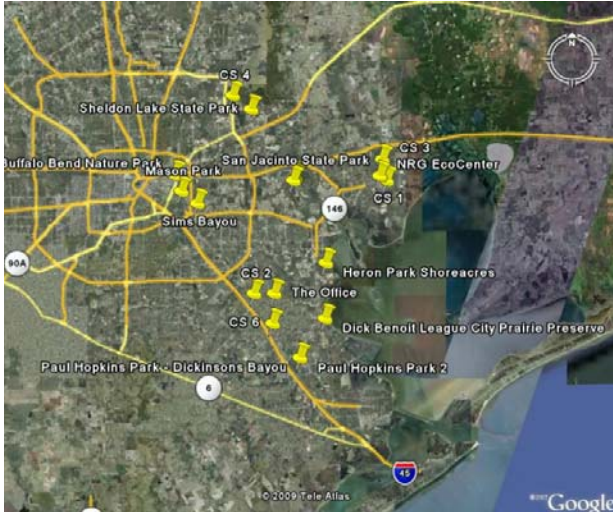


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Texas Coastal Watershed Program–Wetlands

WETLAND RESTORATION

The Texas Coastal Watershed Program (TCWP), a part of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Sea



Wetland Team Restoration Sites (Push Pin marks)

Grant, has been actively involved in wetland restoration in Galveston Bay. TCWP, in partnership with state, federal and local agencies, has worked to establish freshwater wetlands in the Galveston Bay watershed. Our first major project includes the crea-



Aerial view of Mason Park created wetlands

tion of 3.5 acres of freshwater tidal marsh along Brays Bayou at Mason Park. This project is part of the Harris County Flood Control District's larger Brays Bayou Federal Flood Damage Reduction project. This project is unique because the restoration site is deep

within the urban East End of Houston, and involves the creation of wetland habitat as part of a flood control project. This project demonstrates a positive and beneficial alternative to traditional flood control projects.



Sheldon Lake SP, Phase I wetlands

TCWP has also completed 8.5 acres of freshwater wetlands at Sheldon Lake State Park.

TCWP has worked closely with several Texas Master Naturalist chapters to develop the Wetland Restoration Team. This team is trained in wetland plant identification, plant propagation and maintenance and wetland restoration techniques. The Team is the primary force behind the restoration preparation and work. The Wetland Restoration Team has propagated over 29 native wetland plant species at a nursery established at NRG Energy's EcoCenter (plant list on the back panel).



WETLAND EDUCATION

We have utilized the energy of local students and Texas Master Naturalist volunteers to stock and maintain our native wetland plant nursery site. Volunteers have

been the key force in the wetland restoration process, collecting plants from the four county region (Harris, Galveston, Brazoria and Chambers counties), and they assist in current restoration projects like Buffalo Bend Park and Sheldon Lake State



Austin High School students collecting maidencane, *Panicum hemitomon*

Park, Phase II and III. These volunteers have gained personal experience in the identification of wetlands and wetland vegetation. In addition, they have gained an understanding of the role wetlands play in providing habitat and improving water quality. Students as well as other volunteer organizations receive presentations about wetlands, wetland values, wetland restoration processes and local wetland restoration projects.



Master Naturalists volunteers assembling pots for future plant sprigs.

Texas Coastal Watershed Program

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