



WETLANDS



What is a Constructed Wetland?

Constructed wetlands are marshes built intentionally to capture and hold water. They provide numerous benefits, from stormwater filtration to wildlife habitat. They can be as large or small as the homeowner desires, and can serve as a source of diversity and beauty in the landscape.

Establishing a Wetland in Your Yard:

1. Before beginning any project, check homeowner association covenants, as well as local and county ordinances. Do not work in a drainage, utility, or other easement without the proper permits. Also call the Indiana Underground Plant Protection Service (1-800-382-5544) to identify any buried utilities.
2. Consider locating your wetland in an area that is already wet or damp much of the year. Any depression that collects rainwater or runoff from downspouts is an excellent spot to start your wetland. Partially blocking an existing drainage way or digging a shallow basin may be sufficient in this case. However, be sure you do not block drainage for a neighbor's property, causing them to have new flooding issues. If you want to create a wetland in a drier area, it will take a little more work, but is still possible. Dig a shallow depression and bury a plastic liner as you would to create a backyard pond.
3. Now you are ready to install wetland plants. The table below lists native species adapted to saturated soil and/or standing water. Because they are already adapted to the soil and climate conditions in an Indiana wetland, they will require little to no maintenance once established.
4. Your wetland is complete! Maintain it as necessary by watering during extreme dry periods and thinning out vegetation as desired. And don't forget to take time out to enjoy the beauty and benefits being provided!



Benefits of a Wetland:

- Filters storm-water
- Prevents flooding
- Provides wildlife habitat
- Diversifies and beautifies the landscape

<u>Sedges/Grasses</u>	<u>Forbs/Wildflowers</u>	<u>Shrubs</u>	<u>Trees</u>
Bristly Sedge	Water Plantain	Buttonbush	Silver Maple
Bottlebrush Sedge	Swamp Milkweed	Spicebush	River Birch
Virginia Wild Rye	Sneezeweed	Swamp Rose	Bald Cypress
Brown Fox Sedge	Monkey Flower	American Highbush Cranberry	American Plum
Blunt Spike Rush	Broad-Leaf Arrowhead	Silky Dogwood	Black Gum
Rice Cut Grass	Wild Senna	Red-osier Dogwood	Bur Oak
Great Bulrush	Blue Lobelia	Bladdernut	Eastern Red Cedar
Wool Grass	Blue Flag Iris	Elderberry	Pignut Hickory

(This is not a complete list of species.)