

How Do Wetlands Support Wildlife?

Indiana wetlands provide a safe habitat for many types of birds, shellfish, amphibians, mammals, fish, reptiles and more. These extremely biodiverse habitats provide an environment where specialized plant life can flourish. These plants are essential for specially adapted wetland wildlife to live in and feed on.



PLANT LIFE

Over 7,000 different plant species live in Indiana wetlands. Some of the most noticeable are cattails, waterlilies and bulrushes. The life cycle of plants in these areas creates extremely nutrient-rich soil.



BIRDS

As many as two-thirds of the waterfowl in the U.S. use Midwestern wetlands as their breeding grounds. In Indiana specifically, 11 species of waterfowl use wetlands for nesting, and 28 species use wetlands as a migration/wintering habitat.



FISH AND SHELLFISH

Wetlands serve as breeding grounds for valuable species like bass and mussels. These species help to keep a balanced ecosystem and can even help to purify water sources.



MAMMALS

Muskrats and beavers rely solely on wetlands for their habitats. Many land mammals like foxes, coyotes, raccoons and deer use wetlands as a food, habitat and drinking water source.