



# Wetland Plants

*Vegetation is critical to keeping the water clean*



There are two types of wetland features within the park. Most are freshwater marshes but there is a small wet meadow habitat between the water treatment wetland cells and the Crooked River. Marshes are periodically saturated, flooded or ponded with water and characterized by non-woody vegetation adapted to wet soil conditions. Wet meadows, on the other hand, commonly occur in poorly drained areas such as shallow lake basins, low-lying depressions, and the land between shallow marshes and upland areas. Precipitation serves as their primary water supply, so they are often dry in the summer.



Pacific Willow and Cattails

The small wet meadow area has some similar vegetation to the wetlands, but as it is a drier site it also has some grasses and woody shrubs. The fringe areas along the river have a combination of freshwater marsh areas with sedges, rushes and reeds, and slightly drier areas with mesic grasses like Basin Wildrye and woody shrubs such as Redosier Dogwood, Coyote Willow, Pacific Willow and Black Cottonwood.



Woods Rose



Because of the differences in saturation and soil, the two wetland types at the park (freshwater marsh, wet meadow) have different wetland plants. The treatment and disposal cells are mainly freshwater marshes, with abundant plant communities of sedges, rushes and reeds.



Wetlands are often called "Nurseries for Life" as they provide habitat for thousands of species of aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals.



Woods Rose



Red Osier Dogwood



Freemont Cottonwood



Golden Currant

In spring and summer, the wildflowers and other native plants bloom. They not only provide color to the wetland but many will produce seeds and fruit (a vital resource for pollinators), giving nourishment to the insects, birds and animals. Patches of Milkweed have been planted along the river to help Monarch Butterfly populations as well.

All these wetland plant root systems provide a biotic filter for surface water runoff, give structural integrity to hold the soil with their roots, and help oxygen move through the soils.



## Thanks to:

Crooked River Watershed Council.  
Powell Butte Community Charter School.

## Find out more

Invest in wetlands by buying duck stamps. Proceeds from these \$15 migratory bird stamps support wetland acquisition and restoration. The stamps are available on-line at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's web site ([www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)) or at your local post office.

