

# Tiawasee Creek

# Slowing the Flow of Stormwater



Great Blue Heron

## Did You Know...

### Managing water from storms can help ecosystems?

When rain falls, water seeks a route downhill, naturally carving a web of channels in the landscape. Waters seep into tiny brooks, which run into larger creeks, then streams, and eventually rivers. These different waterways are called “tributaries” and the land draining into this web is called “a watershed.”

Watersheds contain ecosystems with communities of plants and animals that live together and depend upon each other for food, shelter, and survival. Ecosystems include terrestrial and aquatic habitats such as streams and wetlands.

### Wetlands include swamps, marshes, and bogs... which are

among the most productive ecosystems on earth. A wetland is an area that is filled or soaked with water at least part of the year but may be dry at other times. Wetlands may be dominated by trees, shrubs, grasses, or moss. Plants found here provide habitat for many different types of wildlife. Wetlands help manage water from storms by absorbing wind and tidal forces and holding flood waters like a sponge. Wetlands filter, clean, and store water – like “kidneys” of our estuaries. Clean water from wetlands supports healthy submerged aquatic vegetation (or seagrasses) that provides nursery habitat for the fish, shrimp, and crabs.

## Wetlands Functions & Values

Wetlands provide a number of functions and values. While not all wetlands provide all functions and values, most wetlands provide several. Under appropriate circumstances constructed wetlands can provide:

- water quality improvement
- flood storage and the desynchronization of storm rainfall and surface runoff
- habitat for fish and wildlife
- passive recreation, such as bird watching and photography
- active recreation, such as hunting education and research
- aesthetics and landscape enhancement

## What are constructed wetlands?

Constructed wetlands are engineered wetlands that are built in upland areas with the purpose to improve the water quality by mitigating impacts from water pollution, including stormwater runoff, agricultural and wastewater. The Well Road Constructed Stormwater Wetland Project removes pollutants through plant uptake, settling, absorption, microbial breakdown and retention. This project was partially funded by the ADEM 319 Program.

## Native Wetland Plants

Look for these tall marsh plants in the water’s edge or shallow water:

- **Cattails** (*Typha latifolia*)
- **Pickerel Weed** (*Pontederia cordata*)
- **Soft Needlerush** (*Juncus effusus*)

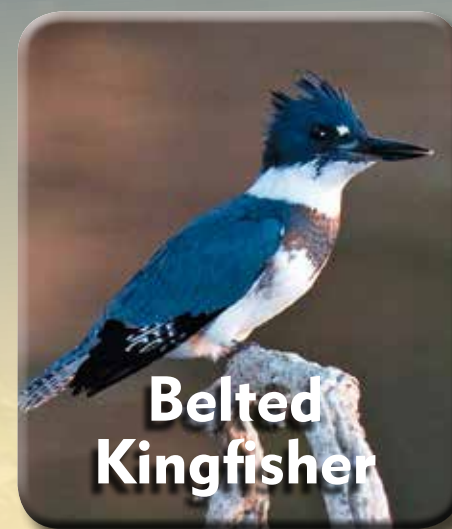
## What lives in and around wetlands?

### Animals of Tiawasee Creek

Insects, minnows, frogs, snakes, turtles, and salamanders provide food for birds, raccoons, and other natural predators. Look for the following:

- **Banded/Southern Water Snake** (*Nerodius fasciata*)
- **Green Anole** (*Anoles carolinensis*)
- **Mosquito Fish** (*Gambusia affinis*)
- **Northern Leopard Frog** (*Rana pipiens*)
- **Water Moccasin** (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*)

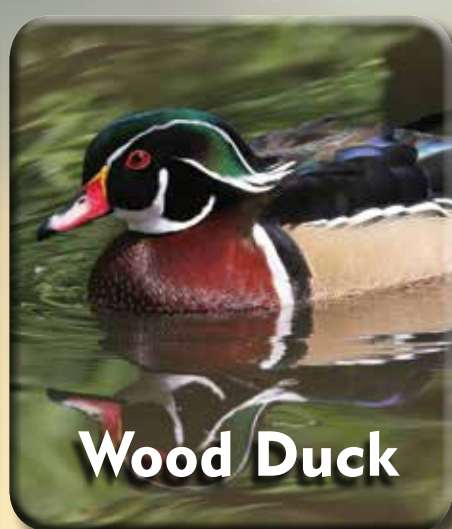
## Birds of Tiawasee Creek



Belted Kingfisher



Snowy Egret



Wood Duck

Look for these birds in the sky, trees, and wetlands:

- **Belted Kingfisher** (*Megaceryle alcyon*)
- **Great Blue Heron** (*Ardea herodias*)
- **Snowy Egret** (*Egretta thula*)
- **Wood Duck** (*Aix sponsa*)
- **Red-winged Blackbird** (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)



Mosquito Fish



Banded/Southern Water Snake



Pickerel Weed



Northern Leopard Frog



Water Moccasin



Green Anole



Soft Needlerush



Cattails

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