



BACKYARD CONSERVATION

It'll grow on you.

Hoosier Heartland Resource
Conservation & Development
Council, Inc.
6041 Lakeside Boulevard
Indianapolis, IN 46278
(317) 290-3250
(317) 290-3150/fax
www.hhrccd.org
hhrccd@hhrccd.org



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



Benefits of a Wetland

- Filters pollutants from stormwater
- Prevents flooding
- Provides wildlife habitat
- Diversifies and beautifies the landscape
- Reduces maintenance of naturally wet areas

Establishing a Wetland in Your Yard

Wetland creation can be a simple process or it may require a great deal of work. The soil types, topography, land use, and many other site characteristics will determine how easy it is to create your wetland. Contact your local county Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) if you are interested in wetland creation. They can give you installation instructions specific to your site.

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.

Characteristics of Backyard Wetlands

Wetlands will be shallow—between 6 and 30 inches deep. Side slopes should be no steeper than 8:1; for greatest benefit to local wildlife, side slopes should be 20:1. The wetland will be vegetated with several different species of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and/or wildflowers. When complete, the wetland will create a valuable native ecosystem that may attract songbirds, small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects.

Sedges/Grasses	Forbs/Wildflowers	Shrubs	Trees
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	Spotted Joe-Pye Weed	Silky Dogwood	Black Gum
Fowl Manna 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.)



Photo by Martha Miller

For more information or for guidance specific to your site, contact your local county Soil and Water Conservation District.