



Wetland Wonders!

Places where water collects on Earth are known as **wetlands**. Spring Creek Prairie has 3 different kinds of freshwater wetlands: **ponds**, **marshes**, and a **creek**. As you explore along the trails notice when you are near water—what kind of wetland is this and who lives here? Think of all the living things that need this important resource.



At the pond

Follow the trail east to the pond closest to the Visitor Center. You will find a place where you can get close to the water without getting wet. Approach the edge of the pond very quietly. Be still and silent for one whole minute, and then see if you can answer the following questions:

- What did you see? (You will usually see more animal life closer to the land.)
- What did you hear?
- What does it smell like?
- Are there plants and animals that live in or near the pond? What animals that you can't see might be living in the pond?
- If you can safely get a sample of the water—can you see if any bugs or plants are in it?

From here, use an on-line trail map to find a place to view Spring Creek and a spot to get near a marshy area—not open water but a wet area filled with plants. Then answer the same questions above for that location.

Repeat above for your stops

At the creek

and

At the marsh

