

THE IMPORTANCE OF WETLANDS

Wetlands are one part of a larger system of rivers, lakes, and streams

This evolving water network provides small habitat islands and open space corridors for wildlife migration. Wetland plant communities include sedges, rushes, grasses, shrubs, and trees and provide excellent wildlife habitat. Colorado's wetlands, with unique plants and soils, comprise less than 2% of its total land area but provide over 75% of the foraging, breeding, and nesting activities of the state's diverse wildlife species including birds, amphibians, insects, and aquatic species.

Impervious surfaces such as roads, roofs, driveways, and parking lots in the built environment increase stormwater runoff. Common contaminants from impervious surfaces include oil, sediment, and litter. Wetlands help catch and filter the increased runoff, contaminants, nutrients, and sediment. The wetland lands act as a sponge, maintaining stream flows, absorbing, and treating water before it enters the South Platte River and larger watershed. How can you help protect wetlands?



“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.” John Muir