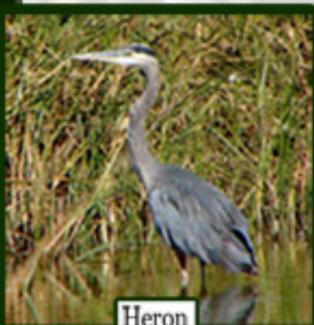


# Wetland



Cross Timbers Park contains three distinct areas that can be classified as wetlands. These low wetland areas in Cross Timbers Park are buffer zones that act as a sponge by soaking up runoff from the surrounding neighborhoods during rain events, thus providing some protection from widespread flooding. The wetlands also act to protect nearby ecosystems from becoming flooded and water logged which could have an adverse effect on that ecosystem's plant ecology and wildlife. The native wetland plant materials like reeds, cattails and lilies act to filter soil particles from water as it passes to create an environment rich in organic matter and typically clear water. In addition to diverse plant life, these wetlands host creatures such as beavers, minks, and rats and can be home to numerous species of fowl.

In some cases, wetlands were the victim of large-scale draining, but education has now helped us to understand how biologically productive wetlands are. Laws have been passed to limit wetland destruction and to create requirements that if a wetland has to be drained, developers at least have to offset the loss by creating an artificial wetland to take its place. Most municipalities will impose a restriction on development within 100 feet of a body of water classified as a wetland.



Heron

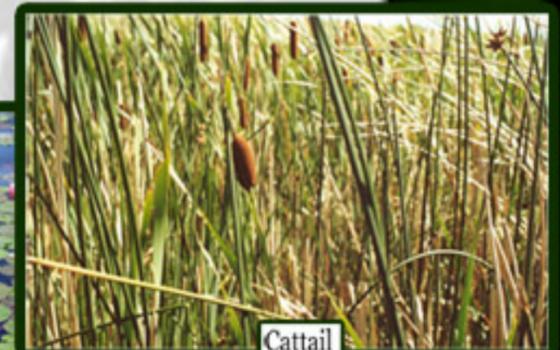


Beaver

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PARKS & RECREATION



Water lilies



Cattail