

marsh

RECREATION

hiking, hunting, trapping, wildlife observation and/or photography

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

Marshes were once common throughout Illinois, but today only a few remain. Many of the remaining marshes are part of larger wetland complexes, found along the border of a pond or within the floodplain of a stream. Chauncey Marsh in Lawrence County and Wilkinson-Renwick Marsh in De Kalb County are two examples of marshes in Illinois.



CHARACTERISTICS

A marsh has more than 50 percent of its vegetation as herbaceous plants and a neutral soil pH. Woody plants account for less than 30 percent of the area. A marsh has standing water for prolonged periods throughout the growing season.

WHAT LIVES HERE?

A marsh is a very highly productive place. It includes a variety of herbaceous plants as well as hundreds of protists, invertebrates, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Marshes are important to migrating species as resting and feeding areas.