

# Coralville's Trail System Incorporating Wetlands

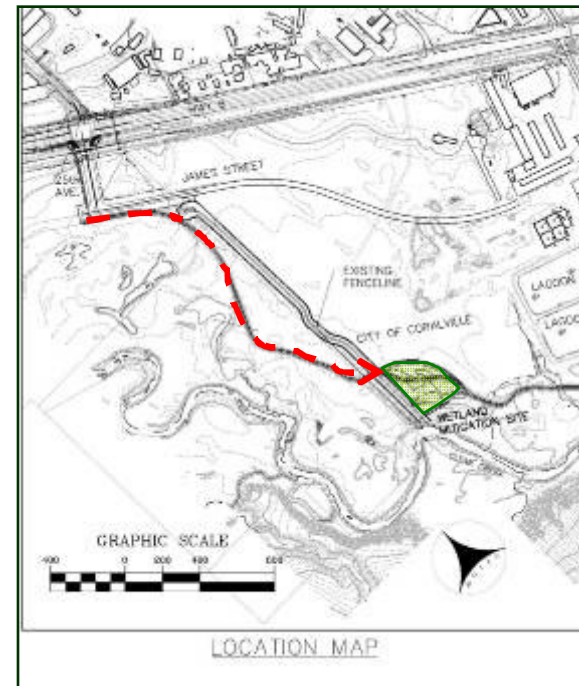


## Wetland Mitigation for the Clear Creek Trail

**The Value of Wetlands in the Watershed.** Wetlands are valuable components of watersheds. They provide important benefits, such as pollutant removal, flood storage, erosion control, wildlife habitat, and groundwater recharge. Wetland areas not only add an aesthetic value to the landscape, but also provide opportunities for hunting, bird watching, wildlife photography and painting, and hiking while appreciating the wonders of nature.

In general, wetlands are the transition from dry land to open water. They are often floodplain forests, marshes, swamps, and bogs. However, not all wetlands are wet year-round. "Drier" wetlands also perform significant wetland functions. Because these wetlands are harder to identify and can easily be filled and/or drained, they often become the victim of agricultural and urban/suburban development.

**Coralville's Clear Creek Trail Wetland.** In 2004, the City of Coralville constructed 1.2 acres of wetland and 0.35 acres of prairie buffer along with construction of the Clear Creek Trail. This wetland is a "drier" wetland in that it supports trees and wet meadow plants. When mature, it will look similar to the wet savanna as seen between dry land and water. The Clear Creek Trail wetland will have standing water only in the western area and only during wet times of the year.



## How To Get There

To find the wetland, follow the Clear Creek Trail south from James Street, or west from Camp Cardinal Road

## Wetland Profile

<b>Location:</b>	Coralville's Clear Creek Trail between Camp Cardinal Road and James Street
<b>Type of Wetland:</b>	wet meadow and savanna
<b>Date Constructed:</b>	October 2004
<b>Size of Wetland:</b>	1.2 acres
<b>Mitigation Plan by:</b>	Judith J. Krieg, P.W.S. EarthView Environmental L.L.C.
<b>Trail Plan by:</b>	Shoemaker Haaland Professional Engineers

**Plants in the Wetlands.** Immediately following construction of a wetland, the ground is bare. The first step in creating a new wetland is to plant seeds and plants that would normally be found in a healthy wetland. For the Clear Creek Trail wetland, a combination of wet soils seed mix, plants, trees, and shrubs were used.

Some species germinate quickly while it can take several years for others to appear, and many plants produce flowers at different times of the year. Look for the following species when you visit the Clear Creek Trail wetland.



Coralville area junior high school students plant trees on W.E.T. & M.U.D.D.Y. Day in May 2006

**Look for these plants in the wetlands and let us know if you find them!**

**Forbs**

- Arrowhead
- Blue Flag Iris
- Blue Vervain
- Giant Bur Reed
- Monkey Flower
- Pickerelweed
- Rose Mallow
- Sneezeweed
- Swamp Milkweed
- Sweet Flag
- White Waterlily
- Water Plantain

**Shrubs**

- Buttonbush
- Indigo bush
- Meadow sweet
- Red-Osier Dogwood
- Silky Dogwood

**Trees**

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| River Birch     | Pin Oak        |
| Green Ash       | Black Willow   |
| Sycamore        | Sandbar Willow |
| Swamp White Oak | Silver Maple   |
| Red Oak         |                |



Pink Turtlehead



Woolgrass



Cardinal Flower

Take a walk on the Clear Creek Trail.  
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