

Camp Scott Constructed Wetlands

What Will You See In the Wetlands?



The constructed wetlands at Camp Scott is fed by a massive, 1.7 million gallon underground storage tank and pump station located under McMillen Park, 6 blocks west of the wetlands. The underground tank collects stormwater from surrounding neighborhoods during rains. Pumps then send the water through a 4-foot diameter pipe to the wetlands storage area. Water bubbles up through a stone structure designed to resemble a natural waterfall. The water then moves through a series of wetlands areas before it enters the two-and-a-half acre storage pond. A three-quarter mile path around the preserve lets visitors experience the natural beauty of Camp Scott without disturbing the habitat.

Stormwater is held in the pond until the discharge line is empty, then water can be released slowly to the Maumee River by opening the 36" storm sewer outlet located under the pier.

During World War II, a small part of the wetlands site was adjacent to a prisoner-of-war camp and military training facility that was named "Camp Scott". This is origin of the name of the wetlands. Prior to development of the wetlands, the site was a marshy area where trash and debris accumulated.

Camp Scott has been filled with native plants chosen specifically for their ability to help clean stormwater. Wetland and prairie grasses, sedges and rushes have been planted. Aster, coneflower, gallardia, daisy, poppy, primrose, Black-Eye Susan and Butterfly Milkweed flower at various times during the year. Native trees including Shagbark Hickory, Pin Oak, Red Oak, Cottonwood, Ash and Red Maple abound.

Wildlife seen at Camp Scott includes owls and other birds of prey such as hawks and falcons. Songbirds such as Cedar Waxwings, several species of swallows, Grey Catbird, Eastern Phoebe, Red-Winged Blackbird, Indigo Bunting, Downy Woodpecker, Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, and Flicker Woodpecker as well as a variety of frogs and turtles are often seen in and around the wetlands. The dead and dying trees in some areas promote the growth of beneficial bacteria and provide habitat for the Indiana bat.

Shorebirds such as Great Blue Herons, Green Herons and Kingfishers may also be spotted from time to time.

Thanks to Fort Wayne's Congressional delegation, City Utilities received \$2 million in federal grants to help with the construction of the Camp Scott wetlands. The total project cost — including sewer separation in surrounding neighborhoods —was nearly \$20 million.



Wetlands Benefits

When a wetlands functions properly, it can help to protect and improve water quality, provide habitat for fish and wildlife and store floodwaters. Degraded wetlands are less able to perform these functions.

In Indiana, 11 species of waterfowl use wetlands for nesting and 28 species use wetlands for migration or wintering habitat. Also, more than 60 wetlands-dependent animals are listed as endangered, threatened or of special concern in Indiana. Because so many wetlands have been lost or degraded, there are more than 120 species of wetland plants in Indiana that are at risk.

In developing Camp Scott, the City of Fort Wayne reclaimed a brownfield that had been used for dumping and created a nature preserve that also helps reduce flooding in surrounding neighborhoods.

Wetland links and resources:

www.in.gov/wetlands/newsletters
www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands
www.cityoffortwayne.org
www.acwater.org

Why is Camp Scott Closed Most of the Time?

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management has issued a permit that allows the City of Fort Wayne to store stormwater at Camp Scott and release it into the Maumee River. Part of the permit requires the City to follow certain operational practices. The quality of water must be managed, litter must be removed, and invasive plant species such as Purple Loosestrife and Queen Anne's Lace must be monitored and controlled.

The best way for the City to be sure the wetlands is operated as required is to control access to the facility. That means that the area is opened to the public on limited occasions and when City staff members are present.

Camp Scott is available for tours by appointment. Please contact the Camp Scott site manager by calling 311 or (260) 427-8311



Camp Scott Wetlands Fort Wayne

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