

A Healthy Marsh



MARSHES ARE WORTH PROTECTING

Coastal marshes provide important wildlife habitat and perform many services for people and animals alike. Great Lakes marshes are one of the most productive ecosystems on earth. However, marshes have disappeared at an alarming rate in the region. Nearly 85% of the Lake St. Clair area marshes have vanished since the mid-1800s.

WHERE ARE THE MARSHES GOING?

Pollution, runoff and sedimentation (build up of a solid material like soil in a place where it wasn't before) have taken their toll.

- Many have been filled in for development.
- They've been broken up into smaller pieces, reducing their ability to function.
- Invasive species like Phragmites are pushing out native species and changing marsh ecosystems.

CRUCIAL TO THE ECOSYSTEM PUZZLE

- Michigan boasts about 2,300 native plant species.
- About 50% of these are wetland species.
- More than 25% of which are threatened or endangered.



CAN YOU FIND ME?

Great Lakes coastal marshes, like those being managed in the Lake St. Clair area, are critical habitats for many wildlife species. How many different species can you find?