Lab 8

Exploring Wetland Ecology

OBJECTIVES

- Explore the wetlands on the NSCC campus
- Understand the physical and biological functions of a wetland
- Examine some of the native and non-native species in the wetland

The most northerly section of the NSCC campus is a green belt known as Bartonwood. NDCC staff and volunteers have been actively restoring this area for more than 15 years. Besides providing important habitat for many types of organisms, Bartonwood has a wetland, which has important functions in the community beyond the college. During this field trip we will work in small groups to explore, investigate and document the essential elements of the Bartonwood ecosystem. When you have finished the tour, work with your group members to answer the questions below.

1. Wetlands perform several important functions within an ecosystem. Describe two of the important *physical* functions of a wetland.

2. Wetlands also provide many important biological functions. Describe two of the *biological* functions of a wetland.

3. One of the values of a wetland is the diversity of habitat it provides. Look around you and identify three of the different microhabitats present in the wetland.

