

# SEEK & FIND SPECIES GAME

## CARDINAL FLOWER

Cardinal flowers are **bright red** and five-lobed. Their color helps them attract birds and butterflies, who love to sip their delicious nectar.



## RED OSIER DOGWOOD

The red osier dogwood is a shrub that's easiest to spot in wintertime, when its **red stems** stand out dramatically against the white snow. Deer love to nibble on the dogwood's foliage for a snack.



## RED WINGED BLACKBIRD

Anywhere cattails grow, male red winged blackbird's *Konk-le-REE!* song can be heard. Male red winged blackbirds are known for their black body and **bright red** and yellow wing stripes, while females more closely resemble a sparrow.



## MANY THANKS TO:



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PLANT IDENTIFICATION:



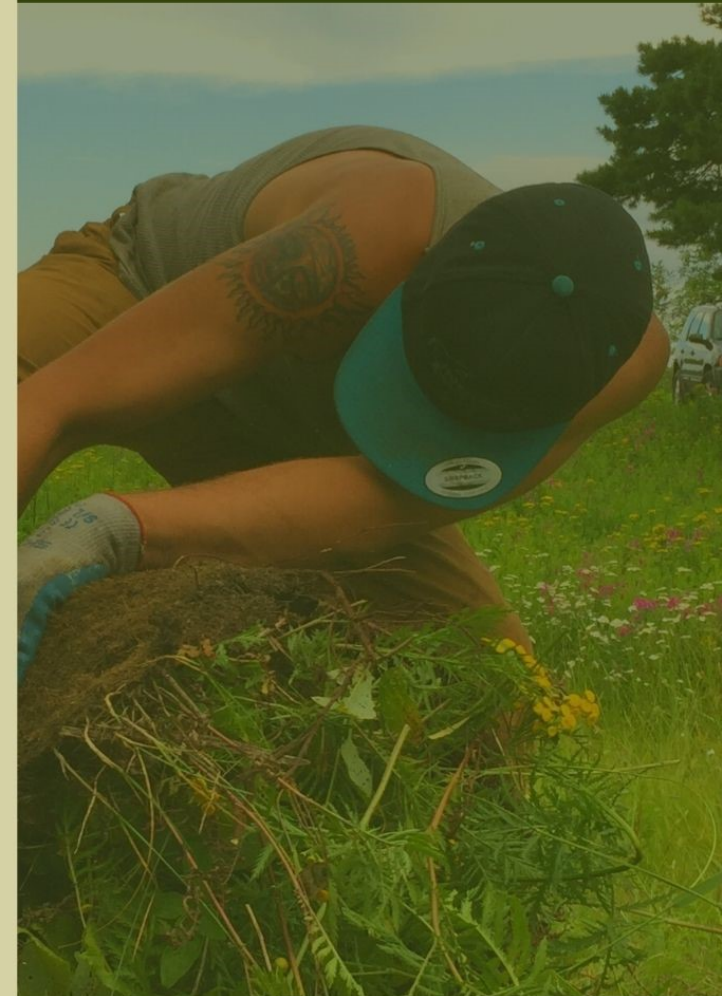
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# WETLAND NATIVE & BULLY SPECIES AT HISTORIC BARNES PARK



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# WETLAND NATIVE & BULLY SPECIES

Wetlands and their surrounding areas, including the retention pond at Historic Barns Park, are home to many different species.

Some are big and some are small.  
Some are brightly colored and others like to camouflage.  
Some are polite and others can be bullies.

Native species are species that have developed over hundreds or thousands of years in a particular region or ecosystem. Native species often have ecosystem benefits. They might provide nectar, pollen, and seeds that serve as food for native butterflies, insects, birds, and other animals. They're also low maintenance; they don't need pesticides or fertilizers to grow in their natural habitat, they help build healthy soils, and they can prevent erosion.

Bully species, or harmful non-native species, cause economic or environmental harm to ecosystems by impacting the diversity of local species by limiting quality and availability of their food and shelter, affecting water availability, and damaging the quality of soil nutrients. Bully species are aggressive and skilled at outcompeting their native counterparts. Almost half of all threatened or endangered species in the United States are at risk due to non-native, invasive species.

It is important to note that not all non-native species are bully species. Some non-native, or introduced, plants happily coexist with natives.

## CATTAILS: NATIVE OR BULLY?

**Native and bully species exist side by side here at Historic Barns Park.** Due to the aggressiveness of bully species, it takes substantial time and resources to support native species and protect landscapes. SEEDS works alongside partners including the **Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network (ISN)** and the **Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC)** to identify plants and create management plans. Species identification can be tricky. Take, for example, the cattail.

**Cattails live all over Historic Barns Park.** They're easy to spot; they look like a corn dog on a tall stick. There are three main types of cattails and it can be almost impossible to tell the difference between them.

**Broadleaf cattails** are native to Michigan. The Anishinaabe people, who have lived here for longer than anyone can remember, use them for weaving baskets and mats. Broadleaf cattails have inch-wide leaves. Female flowers, or **pistillate**, are wide and brown, whereas male flowers, or **staminate**, look like a yellow spike off the top. Their pistillate and staminate are directly next to each other.

**Narrow leaf cattails** are broadleaf cattails' bully cousins. They spread densely, taking over wetland areas to create **monocultures**, areas where only one type of plant lives. Narrow leaf cattails' leaves are half the width of the broad leaf, and their narrower female pistillate is separated from the male staminate by a gap of a half inch or more.

**Hybrid cattails** are a mix between the two species. They display a combination of traits from both "parents," but they act very much like narrow leaf cattails.

Organizations like the ISN work hard to keep narrow leaf and hybrid cattails at bay through a variety of methods including mowing, prescribed burns, and chemical treatments.



**Broadleaf cattail**



**Narrow leaf cattail**

As you move through the park, try to identify which species of cattails you see. Are they broadleaf, narrow leaf, or hybrid?

### Keep your eye out for other bully species at the park:

Depending on the season, some species may be resting, or **dormant**, or they might have been eliminated by SEEDS, other specialists, or our friends at the Invasive Species Network!

### PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

**Purple loosestrife** spreads until it has created a monoculture. This hinders local biodiversity and because its stiff stem collects sediment, removing moisture and turning water habitats into dry land.



### CANADA THISTLE

Canada thistle's nickname, creeping thistle, says It all. This aggressive perennial weed is aggressive. Indigenous to Europe, it is most recognizable in mid-July when its **purple and pink** flowers change to seedheads with white fluffy tops.

