





### Wetland Fun Fact

Smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) is one of the most common plants you will find in Delaware's salt and brackish marshes. It serves as food and habitat for many critters, and helps to reduce wave energy as water moves across the marsh.

### Wetland Fun Fact

Mallards are among the most abundant ducks in the world. They swim around the marsh edges in search for food such as plants, worms, snails, insects and shrimp.

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Great blue herons hunt in the shallow water near edges of both saltwater and freshwater wetlands. They will eat whatever they can catch including frogs, snakes, crayfish, fish, small mammals and birds.

### Wetland Fun Fact

25% of the State of Delaware is covered in wetlands, and out of that only 23% are tidal salt marshes. The rest of our wetlands are freshwater wetland types. Usually, no matter where you stand in the state, you are no more than one mile away from a wetland.

### Wetland Fun Fact

The Eastern painted turtle is one of the most common basking turtles in Delaware. They can be found in any body of water that have soft bottoms and lots of aquatic plants. They have been known to be active year long, and are often seen basking on fallen trees.

### Wetland Fun Fact

The northern green frog (*Rana clamitans melanota*) may not be the best choice for pulling Santa's sleigh, but they are widely distributed and commonly seen in and around shallow freshwater habitats throughout Delaware. You can often hear their distinctive call, sounding much like the plucking of a banjo string, along the brackish marshes bordering Delaware Bay during the spring.

### Wetland Fun Fact

Although, you are unlikely to see pickerelweed (*Pentederia cordata*) in the snow as it dies back in the winter, it is a common freshwater marsh plant that puts out pretty purple flowers.

### Wetland Fun Fact

Did you know that beavers can help create freshwater wetlands? The stick-and-mud dams they build help slow the flow of water creating mini-reservoirs. This slow-down allows sediment to fall out of the water, and excess nutrients in the water to be absorbed by plants.