

What is Biodiversity?



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ABOUT
BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity is variety in plant, animal, fungal and bacterial species. Biodiversity:

- fosters healthy ecosystems
- is critical for pollinators, which thrive in biologically rich habitats
- is essential for a robust food system
- increases a region's resilience to variations in weather and climate



Parker Meadow combines a seasonal pond, open and edge spaces, and woodland habitat areas to create a biodiverse environment for many kinds of wildlife.

In front of you is a seasonal pond:

During the spring and summer months, this wetland area is filled with the sights and sounds of migrating and nesting birds, along with amphibians and aquatic insects. You may hear bullfrog or warbler calls, or see an occasional blue heron searching for food.



To your left, find the open meadow:

Meadows can function as complex food webs. Abundant flowers bring insects, which in turn provide food for both migrating birds in spring and fledglings in summer. In autumn, small mammals will eat or store seeds for winter consumption. Throughout winter, burrowing animals like voles attract higher level predators such as foxes and hawks.

Left unmowed, this meadow would become a woodland.



You are surrounded by woodland:

The woods around you replaced a farm abandoned decades ago. Walk the trails to find mature oak and beech trees, along with red maple and quaking aspen. Ferns and other woodland flowers carpet the ground during the warmer months. When trees are bare, look for holes left by woodpeckers or squirrel dreys high in the tree canopy.



The interplay between the species you find in this small pond, the nearby meadow and the surrounding woodlands represents a biodiverse community in action!

To maintain the biodiversity, management is needed to address threats such as invasive species.



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