7 best practices in wetland restoration

Fully re-creating the benefits of a natural wetland may take time, but with restoration many harmful effects of degradation can be reversed. Successful wetland restoration projects...

Restore multiple benefits

A natural wetland provides a multitude of services. Take a holistic view in restoration, recapturing many benefits, not just one or two.

Develop a restoration plan

In a natural wetland ecosystem, the vegetation, the wildlife and the site itself all draw from and give to each other. Aim to re-create this selfsustaining cycle and monitor the results.

Involve the community

3

Ensure that local residents and businesses have a voice in the restoration. Give them a role in maintaining the restored site. Involve women, youth and indigenous people.

Address the causes of degradation

Assess and understand first what led to the degradation. Limit pressures such as overharvesting of water and pollution from agriculture, industry and urban development.

Clean up the degraded area

Remove any debris, trash and waste that has accumulated in the wetland. This makes people less likely to treat the area like a dump.



Restore native flora and fauna

Re-create the original hydrological conditions, replant native vegetation and reintroduce native wildlife. Weed out invasive species.

Structure access to the wetland

Create specific spaces for people to access the wetland. List which activities are allowed where. Designate zones where wildlife can thrive.





6