

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...

1

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.

2

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 self-sustaining cycle and monitor the results.

3

Involve the community

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.

4

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.

5

Restore native flora and fauna

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

6

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.

7

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.

