

Plant-based Research & Application in the Northwest



constructed wetlands

PROJECT Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary
START/COMPLETION Pilot projects started in 1979. Construction on the marsh was completed in 1986.
LOCATION Arcata, Humboldt County, California
OWNER/AGENCY City of Arcata

DESCRIPTION 100 acre constructed wetland that serves as secondary and tertiary treatment for the city's wastewater. Secondary treatment utilizes oxidation via algae and bacteria. A visitors' center and nature trails provide information about the marsh and its wildlife inhabitants.

PERFORMANCE
The AMWF serves Arcata's population of 15,000 people and the marsh has become a widely recognized success story of effective wastewater treatment. The marsh has also been recognized for its value as habitat for over 200 species of birds.

LINKS:
EPA's website on constructed wetlands:
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/construc/arcata/11intro.html>
City of Arcata:
http://www.arcatacityhall.org/arcata_marsh.html
History of the Arcata Marsh Project:
http://sorrel.humboldt.edu/~ere_dept/marsh/history.html