KEY PLANTINGS



bird species.

Cattail (*Typha latifolia*) thrive S on the pond edge, providing s food and habitat for various si



Spirea douglasii, hardhack spiraea, puts on a glorious show in the summer, growing near the water's dappled edge.





Various species of dogwood make the bird marsh their home, including *Cornus sericea*

Integral to the original design intent, the white trunks of alders (*Alnus rubra*) mark the periphery of the water.



Between Spring of 2018 and Fall of 2022, 109 bird species have been detected and 4,630 bird observations have been made in the Buxton Bird Marsh.

In 2021 alone, we planted 2,163 plants in the Bird Marsh, including 15 carnivorous plants, 33 trees/shrubs, 60 ferns, 750 bulbs, and 1,338 herbs and groundcovers.

MEET OUR TEAM

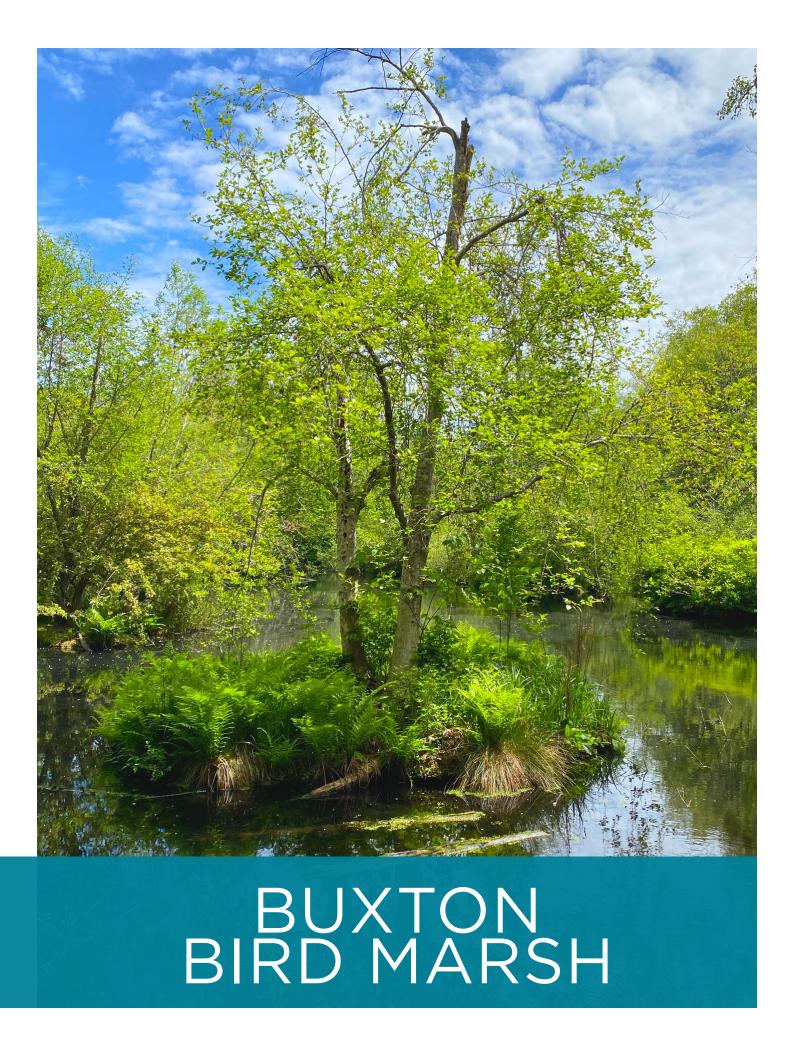
1 1 A CANARA



Haley Wiggins, Garden Area Manager South, manages the Buxton Bird Marsh and Pollinator Meadow and has been at the Reserve since 2019. She is an experienced botanist with a background in plant ecology and ecological restoration.



Alex Tracy, Facilities Associate, has worked at the Reserve since 2019. He studies audio engineering at a recording studio and composes original music.





DONATE TODAY



WWW.BLOEDELRESERVE.ORG

Xutixdubuł ti swatix ^wtəd | This land takes care of us

1955

The Bloedels acquired the land containing what is now the Bird Marsh from the Coleman Family.

1960

Mr. Bloedel, working with the US Soil Service, excavated the existing cattail marsh, creating an irrigation pond. A pump house was added, as well as a floating pier. Water from the pond was used to irrigate the Bloedel Timberlands tree farm, a small nursery on the grounds.

1978

Landscape Architect Richard Haag was hired to reimagine the marsh and pond. It was decided to prioritize the space as bird habitat. Ornithologist Dr. Frank Richards was consulted to ensure design decisions maximize avian benefit.

1981 - 1984

The existing pond was enlarged, and 6 islands were constructed. Extensive planting was done, focusing on selections with high habitat value.

1986 - 1995

Additional land is acquired to the southwest of the pond. Environmental Planning & Design (EPD) designed trails through the woods and along the pond edge. Cattail was removed from the islands and replaced with fern and sedge.

2016 - Today

A Bird Marsh Task Force was formed including staff, board members and community experts. Landscape Architects Fischer/Bouma Partnership (FBP) create plans to address circulation issues on site. In 2019 construction began: boardwalks were built, and pathways pulled back from pond edges. Planting and maintenance of marsh continues today. Bird surveying is done frequently, and decisions continue to balance bird habitat and visitor experience.



THE EXPERIENCE

Visitors emerge from the woodland trail onto a large boardwalk, offering expansive views of the pond.

Islands planted with crabtrees, ferns and spirea create nesting sites for birds. Tall snags punctuate the alder trees along the pond edge, attracting pileated woodpeckers.

Along the water's edge, cattails, sedges and rushes thrive in the shallow muck, home to salamanders, frogs and birds. Benches along the boardwalk and further down the winding trail create opportunities for contemplation and birdwatching.

FLOATING WETLANDS

2022 brought a new addition to Buxton Bird Marsh. Led by Garden Area Manager Haley Wiggins, our team built and launched three floating wetlands in the deeper end of the pond to create invaluable new habitat.

Roots from the growing plants reach deep into the water, offering shelter for aquatic creatures, as well as a place for them to lay their eggs. These emergent aquatics also support microbial populations, attract insects and provide forage, cover and nesting habitat for birds.



