

“Quick glances from the street only provide a very basic assessment of the types of plants that may be present compared to the plot sampling and careful ID work of the WHEP volunteers. Much of the information collected to date has indicated that many of the wetlands that have been examined fare better than expected, have more species than are visible from edge, and may contain some surprises that we would never have been discovered through other means.” – Aaron Schwartz, *Natural Resource Specialist, City of Minnetonka*

DATA KEY

INVERTEBRATES

Kinds of Leeches

The # of Leeches present in the sample; number is higher in healthier wetlands.

Kinds of Odonata

This measures the number of dragonflies and damselflies in a sample. This number is higher in healthier wetlands.

ETS

This metric adds the number of mayfly larvae (Ephemeroptera), caddisfly larvae (Trichoptera), dragonfly presence (D), and fingernail clam presence (Sphaeriidae). This collection is sensitive to pollution.

Kinds of Snails

This measures the number of Snails TYPES in the wetland. The higher the number the better quality wetland.

Total Invertebrate Taxa

The total number of invertebrate taxa is the strongest indicators of health in a wetland. This is an overall inventory of invertebrates, the higher the number the better diversity.

VEGETATION

Vascular Genera

This measures the richness or number of different kinds of vascular plants.

Nonvascular Genera This measures the richness or number of different kinds of nonvascular plants such as mosses, liverworts and lichens.

Grasslike Genera This measures the richness of a specific type of vascular plants including grasses, sedges and related genera.

Carex Cover This measures the extent of coverage by member of the genus Carex or sedges. Abundance increases in healthier wetlands.

Utricularia Presence Bladderwort is a group of carnivorous plants that feed on macroinvertebrates. Its presence suggests a good condition.