

HEGEWISCH MARSH

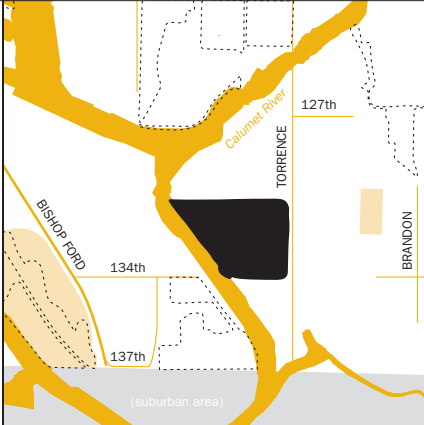
Hegewisch Marsh is a premiere site for wetland birds. A small colony of yellow-headed blackbirds nest and fledge their young here each year. In the years before northeastern Illinois' wetlands were drained and filled, yellow-headed blackbirds were common residents of Chicago's marshes. But they are now listed as an endangered species in Illinois.

Hegewisch Marsh is also a nesting site for pied-billed grebes and common moorhen, both of which are threatened species in Illinois. It's included on the state of Illinois' list of important sites, the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory.

Yellow-headed blackbirds require open water and stands of reeds or cattails, like those found at Hegewisch Marsh. The birds eat both seeds and insects, and feed both in wetlands and in upland fields and prairies. Best times to see the birds are in the early morning and evening; during the heat of the day, the birds tend to remain in the denser cattails.

There's a mix of habitats on the site. In addition to the marshlands **1**, which are dominated mainly by cattails, there are meadows and stands of cottonwoods on higher ground **2** **5** **6**.

Hegewisch Marsh is part of the Calumet Open Space Reserve.



Hegewisch Marsh



ADDRESS 13000 S Torrence Ave
OWNER Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Private, City of Chicago
ACREAGE 126.67

HABITATS
1 Wetland
2 **5** **6** Forest/Woodland
3 **4** Riparian/Water Edge

DIRECTIONS Access to Hegewisch Marsh is in the process of being developed. The marsh can be viewed from Torrence Avenue (look on the west side of the street) south of 130th.

