

DAVIS WETLANDS



Overview

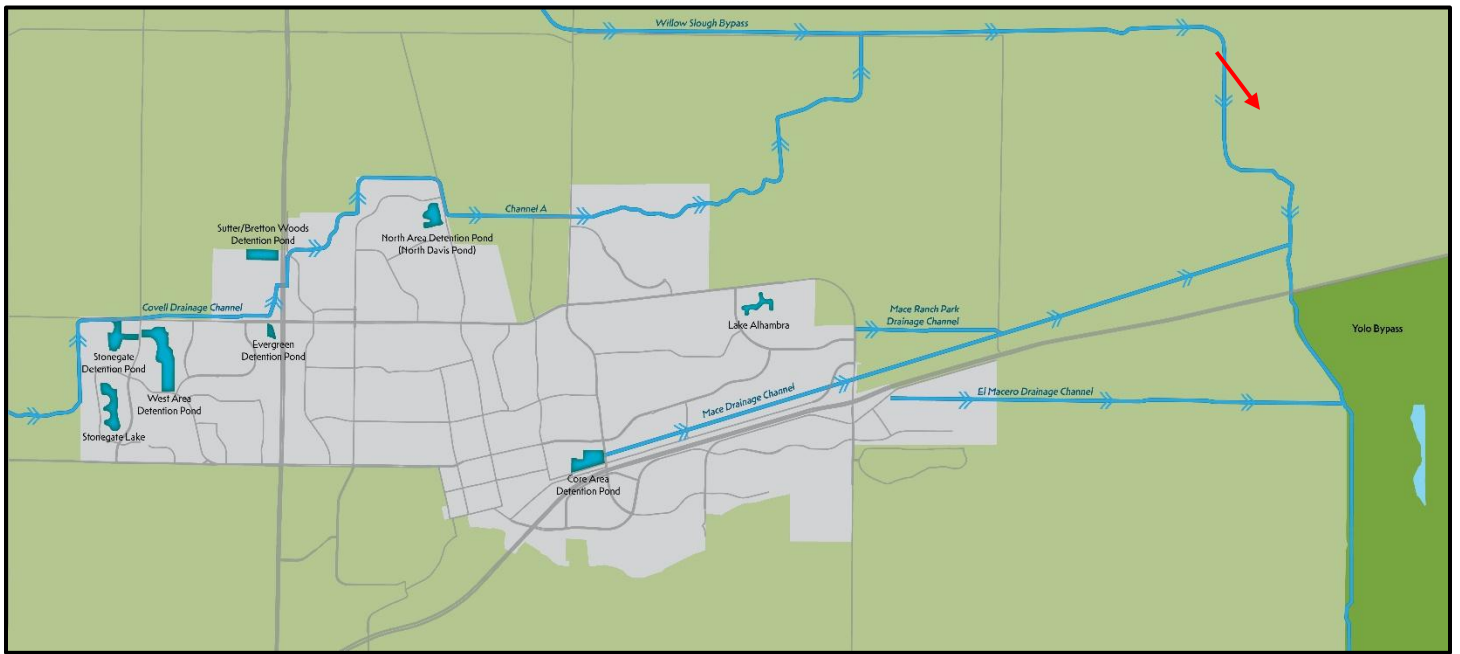
Even though they look like open spaces, the City's drainage channels, detention ponds and wetlands are not maintained by the City's Open Space Program. Instead, they are maintained by the City's Public Works Department because they are part of the City's vast stormwater drainage system that protects the City from flooding. In Davis, these drainage features all have natural soil surfaces and vegetation, which act as a natural water treatment filtration system and provide seasonal habitat for aquatic plants and wildlife. The stormwater flows into the Yolo Bypass and eventually into the Sacramento River and the San Francisco Bay.

The Davis Wetlands is 400 acres and was constructed by the City of Davis and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a wetlands restoration demonstration project in 1998. Until recently, it also served as a tertiary treatment facility for the City's wastewater. The wetlands is a managed freshwater emergent wetland ecosystem that includes oak riparian woodlands and native grasslands. The wetlands offer opportunities to enjoy rare aquatic habitat within an urban environment and views of the adjacent farmland.

Key information:

- Public access is limited. From September to February, the wetlands are only open on Mondays until 1:00 p.m. From February to August, the wetlands are open every day until 1:00 p.m.
- The [Yolo Basin Foundation](#) also offers docent-led tours of the wetlands.
- The wetlands feature more than five miles of hard-packed gravel roads for auto tours (either self-guided or docent-led), a wetlands observation deck, and areas to stop and observe water birds.
- Dogs are not allowed at this location, even on leash.
- Bathrooms and potable water are not available.

Adjacent to the Yolo Bypass, the Davis Wetlands provides valuable habitat for countless waterfowl migrating along the Pacific Flyway, one of four major migratory routes for North American birds. The wetlands provide a mosaic of habitats that provide food and cover for numerous wildlife species. A map showing the location of the wetlands can be found below.



Things you can do at the Davis Wetlands

- Go on a self-guided auto tour.
- Go on a docent-led auto tour through the Yolo Basin Foundation.
- View water birds and wildlife.
- Learn about the area from docents.

Rules and Regulations

Even though the Davis Wetlands is not an open space area, visitors should treat it like an open space area. Key rules and regulations at this location include:

- Public access is restricted due to duck hunting season on adjacent properties.
- Dogs are not allowed at this location, even on leash.
- Drivers and pedestrians must stay on designated roads.
- No biking.
- No horseback riding.
- No hunting.
- No camping.
- No fires.
- No smoking.
- No drones.

Directions

The Davis Wetlands can be accessed via County Road 28 H. Take Pole Line Road (County Road 102) north to County Road 28H, which is the road to the Yolo County landfill. Turn right (east) onto County Road 28 H and go about 3.8 miles, past the City of Davis's Wastewater Treatment Plant. A frontage road will be to the left (north). Follow the frontage road to the entrance to the Davis Wetlands.

Photo Gallery





Some photos courtesy of Marc Hoshovsky.