

## West Eugene Wetlands

**Domain name:** PNW NEON – Domain 16

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**Location:** 44.212 N; -122.56 W

**Ecological Themes:** Climate; Land Use (urbanization); Invasives (plant, animal); Disturbance (fire, pollution); Aquatic (wetland, stream, reservoir, river).

**Site History and Characteristics.** Situated in a remnant prairie at the southern end of Oregon's Willamette Valley, the site is within an area originally zoned for industrial expansion by the city of Eugene. Federal approval of the West Eugene Wetlands Plan in 1994 set aside land for protection and paved the way for the West Eugene Wetlands Partnership (including the city of Eugene, the BLM, the Nature Conservancy, and others), now a nationally recognized program for wetlands protection and sound urban development. The WEW currently includes more than 3,000 acres of wetlands and associated uplands that are hydrologically and ecologically connected. The site is a rapidly-growing center for community and K-12 education ([http://www.wewetlands.org/ed\\_center.asp](http://www.wewetlands.org/ed_center.asp)) as well as research that combines social and natural sciences (<http://www.lcog.org/wewresearch/>).



**Gradients and Themes.** On the urbanizing fringe of Eugene, this site is ideally suited for studies of urbanization, particularly in an industrial context. This is also a prime area for analyses of biodiversity and endangered species within a background of climate change and urban expansion. The West Eugene Wetlands area includes some of the largest remaining fragments of the Willamette Valley's native wet prairies, which provide habitat for a number of rare and endangered species.

**Existing facilities.** The city of Eugene nearby University of Oregon offer abundant options for housing and laboratory facilities. Facilities at the site itself are predominantly oriented to recreation and education.