



## NATURE AT HOME

We hope to inspire kids of all ages to learn about the natural world and discover new connections to nature.



### Pond Habitat

View the video at [DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home](http://DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home)

A **habitat** is the natural home or environment of an animal, plant or other organism. All habitats provide four important things for the plants and animals that live there.

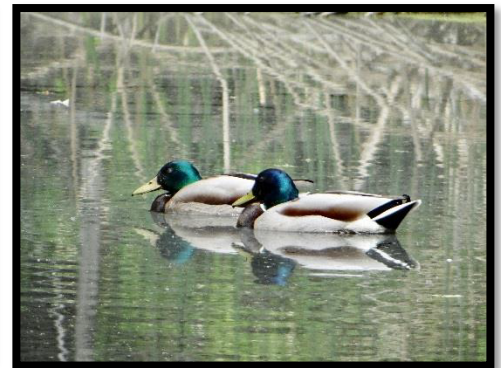
#### **FOOD, WATER, SHELTER and SPACE to live**

A pond is a habitat called a wetland. Some ponds contain water all year round. Others called **seasonal** or **vernal** ponds only have water for part of the year.

There are 10 different types of land habitats. Some of the other types include deserts, forests, grasslands, mountains and **riparian**. A riparian habitat is the area on the banks of or adjacent to a river, stream or pond. Riparian habitats have wet soil year-round. There are a lot of plants that make good shelter for birds and small mammals. Sometimes you might see a larger mammal, such as a deer or moose browsing on leaves and the bark of smaller trees and shrubs.



The trees and shrubs of the riparian habitat provide shade, which cools the water. The cooler water contains more dissolved oxygen, or D.O. The amount of dissolved oxygen present in the water, determine how many and what kind of organisms can live in the pond.



These two habitats work together. The ponds keep the shrubs and trees growing and the trees keep the pond cool.

If you have any questions, e-mail: [Education@DishmanHills.org](mailto:Education@DishmanHills.org)