The narrow northern section of Railroad Marsh is a solid field of phragmites, an invasive plant that stands ten-feet tall and has an elaborate plume on its end. As monocultures go, it is an impressive example; the view is consistent as a cornfield, but even taller.

The southern section contains greater diversity, with an array of some of the more common native prairie and wetland plants.

The Railroad Marsh is part of an important set of contiguous open spaces within the Calumet Area. It is directly north of Big Marsh (site 6, p. 34), which is kitty-corner from Indian Ridge Marsh (site 42, p. 66) and across the street from Lake Calumet’s East Shore (site 10, p. 40). It is across the railroad tracks from Van Vlissingen Prairie (site 82, p. 121).