

# Wetland Revitalized

by Jocelyn Thorpe

I thought it would be bigger  
tried not to feel sad when I saw

It was not what I expected

Intersections, contradictions, nature and culture abruptly abutted, lines blurred

This

I aimed to appreciate

But instead I am underwhelmed

Overwhelmed

That it took four levels of government thirty years of concentrated effort  
(according to the sign)

to create

this.

I see a thistle at my foot

A swallow passes close to my cheek

I try to remain with them

But the expressway is bigger, louder

It penetrates my effort

Beats me

Yachts to the south, between the swallow and the lake

Condos to the east, west, north

Road road road cars trucks

In spite of my best efforts,

my throat closes and my eyes well.

I know that people have fought for this

I did not help

I'm sure the swallow, and perhaps the thistle too, would rather have it here than gone.

Blurred lines

Too hard, and now

I want to leave.