## **SCIENCE** in the Park

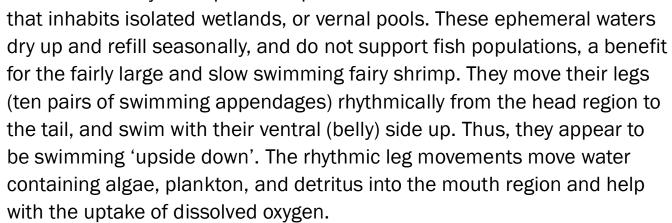
## **Fairy Shrimp**

**Eubranchipus vernalis** 

**Family: Chirocephalidae** 

**Omnivore / Prey** Native to Virginia

The Eastern fairy shrimp is a unique crustacean



## un Facts

- The eggs of fairy shrimp are small and cyst-like, and are easily spread across the landscape by wind or on the feet or fur of animals moving from place to place.
- Male fairy shrimp have a pair of large antennae in the mouth area that are adapted as claspers to hold the female while mating.
- The eggs of brine shrimp, a salt-water relative of the fairy shrimp, were sold as 'Sea Monkeys' in the 1950's and were taken into space by astronaut John Glenn in 1998. The trip did not affect their hatching!