

## Grand River Waterway Dredging Potential Impacts to Protected Species

Waterways within Ottawa County, primarily the Grand River and its tributaries and banks, are home to many species of State-protected plants, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and especially shellfish (clams & mussels) species. Disruption of the river substrate, flow channels, spawning grounds, banks, and riverine wetlands poses a significant threat to their habitats.

The following species of concern associated with the river corridor have been recorded to occur in Ottawa County:

### Shellfish

Elktoe	<i>Alasmidonta marginata</i>	Special Concern
Slippershell	<i>Alasmidonta viridis</i>	State-Threatened
Purple wartyback	<i>Cyclonaias tuberculata</i>	State-Threatened
Creek heelsplitter	<i>Lasmigona compressa</i>	Special Concern
Flutedshell	<i>Lasmigona costata</i>	Special Concern
Black sandshell	<i>Ligumia recta</i>	State-Endangered
Threehorn wartyback	<i>Obliquaria reflexa</i>	State-Endangered
Ornamanted peaclam	<i>Pisidium cruciatum</i>	Special Concern
Fingernail clam	<i>Pisidium simplex</i>	Special Concern
Round pigtoe	<i>Pleurobema sintoxia</i>	Special Concern
Pink heelsplitter	<i>Potamilus alatus</i>	Special Concern
Pink papershell	<i>Potamilus ohioensis</i>	State-Threatened
Round lake floater	<i>Pyganodon subgibbosa</i>	State-Threatened
Lilliput	<i>Toxolasma parvum</i>	State-Endangered
Fawnsfoot	<i>Truncilla donaciformis</i>	State-Threatened
Deertoe	<i>Truncilla truncata</i>	Special Concern
Paper pondshell	<i>Utterbackia imbecillis</i>	Special Concern
Rainbow	<i>Villosa iris</i>	Special Concern

### Fish

Lake herring (cisco)	<i>Coregonus artedi</i>	Special Concern
Kiyi	<i>Coregonus kiyi</i>	Special Concern
Shortjaw cisco	<i>Coregonus zenithicus</i>	State-Threatened
River redhorse	<i>Moxostoma carinatum</i>	State-Threatened
Bigmouth shiner	<i>Notropis dorsalis</i>	Special Concern
Weed shiner	<i>Notropis texanus</i>	Extirpated
Sauger	<i>Sander canadensis</i>	State-Threatened

### Reptiles & Amphibians

Blanchard's cricket frog	<i>Acris blanchardi</i>	State-Threatened
Spotted turtle	<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	State-Threatened

Kirtland's snake	<i>Clonophis kirtlandii</i>	State-Endangered
Blanding's turtle	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	State-Threatened
Eastern box turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina carolina</i>	Special Concern

### Birds

Red-shouldered hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	State-Threatened
Marsh wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	Special Concern
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	State-Threatened
Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	State-Endangered
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Special Concern
Black-crowned night heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Special Concern
King rail	<i>Rallus elegans</i>	State-Endangered

### Plants

Davis's sedge	<i>Carex davisii</i>	Special Concern
Seorsa sedge	<i>Carex seorsa</i>	State-Threatened
Three-ribbed spike rush	<i>Eleocharis tricostata</i>	State-Threatened
Tinted spurge	<i>Euphorbia commutata</i>	State-Threatened
Virginia bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	State-Endangered
American lotus	<i>Nelumbo lutea</i>	State-Threatened
Bog bluegrass	<i>Poa paludigena</i>	State-Threatened
Mermaid-weed	<i>Proserpinaca pectinata</i>	State-Endangered
Atlantic blue-eyed-grass	<i>Sisyrinchium atlanticum</i>	State-Threatened
Snow trillium	<i>Trillium nivale</i>	State-Threatened

### Bats

Eastern pipistrelle	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Special Concern
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### Snails

Campelona spire snail	<i>Cincinnatia cincinnatiensis</i>	Special Concern
Watercress snail	<i>Fontigens nickliniana</i>	Special Concern

### Source:

The Natural Heritage Database tracks and records rare Michigan plants and animals that meet federal and state definitions of endangered or threatened species, as well as species of special concern. The list is maintained by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, MSU Extension. This list includes all species within Ottawa County which may be associated with the river corridor.

### Definitions:

- "Endangered" indicates the species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

- "Threatened" indicates the species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

- "Special Concern" indicates declining or relict species in the state which are tracked due to concerns for their future status. These species need protection to prevent them from becoming Threatened or Endangered.

- "Extirpated" are presumed to no longer exist in this state.

#### Legal Protection:

- The Endangered Species Act of the State of Michigan (Part 365 of Public Act 451, 1994, known as the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act) states "a person shall not take, possess, transport, import, export, process, sell, offer for sale, buy, or offer to buy, and a common or contract carrier shall not transport or receive for shipment, any species of fish, plants, or wildlife" appearing on the State list of protected species. "Take" means, in reference to fish and wildlife, to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct. "Take" means, in reference to plants, to collect, pick, cut, dig up, or destroy in any manner.

- In addition, certain amphibians and reptiles are afforded additional protection by the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources Director's Order No. FO-224-13. "It shall be unlawful to kill, take, trap, possess, buy, sell, offer to buy or sell, barter, or attempt to take, trap, possess or barter any reptile or amphibian from the wild, or the eggs of any reptile or amphibian from the wild, except as provided within this Order."

#### Federally Listed Species:

- If we broaden the list to Kent County, we add many other species, but most notably the Federally Endangered snuffbox mussel and scaleshell mussel (both also listed as State-Endangered), the Federally Threatened northern long-eared bat (State Special Concern), and the Federally Threatened eastern massasauga rattlesnake (State Special Concern).