



Grand River Waterway Dredging Project's 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

River redhorse	<i>Moxostoma carinatum</i>	State-Threatened
Bigmouth shiner	<i>Notropis dorsalis</i>	Special Concern
Weed shiner	<i>Notropis texanus</i>	Extirpated

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



Friends of the Lower Grand River

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
Trumpeter swan	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	State-Threatened
American bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Special Concern
Least bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	State-Threatened
Black tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Special Concern
Northern harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Special Concern
Short-eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	State-Endangered
Yellow-headed blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	Special Concern
Common gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>	State-Threatened
Common loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	State-Threatened
Caspian tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	State-Threatened
Red-headed woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	Special Concern
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Special Concern
Prothonotary warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	Special Concern
Forster's tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	State-Threatened
Common tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	State-Threatened
Plants		
Davis's sedge	<i>Carex davisii</i>	Special Concern
Seorsa sedge	<i>Carex seorsa</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
Snow trillium	<i>Trillium nivale</i>	State-Threatened
Wahoo	<i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i>	Special Concern
Wild rice	<i>Zizania aquatica</i>	State-Threatened
Snails		
Campelona spire snail	<i>Cincinnatia cincinnatiensis</i>	Special Concern
Watercress snail	<i>Fontigens nickliniana</i>	Special Concern



Friends of the Lower Grand River

Sources

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.

The eBird database is maintained by the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, in cooperation with Audubon. Observation reports by the participants are reviewed prior to adding them to the data. Not all of these sightings have been reported to MNFI and may not be included in their records.

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



Friends of the Lower Grand River

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

There are many additional protected species in Kent County, 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).

Updated 09-24-2019