

Wildlife

Current Plan

The current plan provides lists of known fish and wildlife species within the watershed and the basic principles of wildlife management. The plan also addresses endangered, threatened and special concern species within the watershed.

Wildlife and Fisheries Resources

The wildlife and fisheries resources of the watershed have traditionally provided a considerable amount of recreational and economic benefit to area residents and others. In addition to the traditional activities of hunting and trapping, nature observation and nature photography have become important wildlife related activities.

Three lakes are open to the fishing public within the watershed. Crooked Lake in the western portion of the watershed is noted as a special regulation lake for bass. Ham Lake and Lake Netta are known to be Northern Pike fisheries. Lake Netta; however, is known to experience freeze out.

Wildlife Management Areas

Approximately 5,000 acres in the northeastern part of the watershed are part of the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area (CAWMA). The CAWMA is a wetland area that supports a large waterfowl population along with other wetland wildlife such as beaver and muskrat. Other species such as deer, fox, rabbit, squirrel and other small game are also found in this area. Black bear and coyotes have been sighted in the District according to a 1981 study by the USFWS.

Property	Size (acres)	City
Carlos Avery WMA	4,873	Columbus
Bunker Hills Regional Park	1,475	Coon Rapids
Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park	215	Coon Rapids
Erlandson Nature Center	76	Coon Rapids
Springbrook Nature Center	127	Fridley

Endangered and Threatened Species

The Minnesota Natural Heritage Program has conducted a computer search for occurrences of rare plants, animals and other significant natural features known in the Coon Creek watershed.

The Natural Heritage Program is a unit within the Ecological Services section of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, DNR. The program has compiled the most complete single source of data on Minnesota's rare, endangered or otherwise significant plant and

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animal species, plant communities and other natural features. While this information is comprehensive, it cannot be considered a substitute for on-site surveys.

Endangered Species An endangered species is a species that is threatened with extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range

Common Name	Scientific Name	Group	Federal Status
Karner Blue	Lycaeides melissa samuelis	insect	endangered
Tubercled Rein-orchid	Platanthera flava var. herbiola	vascular plant	none
Twisted Yellow-eyed Grass	Xyris torta	vascular plant	none
Virginia Bartonias	Bartonia virginica	vascular plant	none
Cross-leaved Milkwort	Polygala cruciata	vascular plant	none
Diverse-leaved Pondweed	Potamogeton diversifolius	vascular plant	none
Blunt-lobed Grapefern	Botrychium oneidense	vascular plant	none
Snailseed Pondweed	Potamogeton bicupulatus	vascular plant	none
Tall Nut-rush	Scleria triglomerata	vascular plant	none

Threatened Species A threatened species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Group	Federal Status
Wilson's Phalarope	Phalaropus tricolor	bird	none
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	bird	none
Trumpeter Swan	Cygnus buccinator	bird	none
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius ludovicianus	bird	none
Little White Tiger Beetle	Cicindela lepida	insect	none
Blanding's Turtle	Emydoidea blandingii	reptile	none
Tooth-cup	Rotala ramosior	vascular plant	none
Ram's-head Lady's-slipper	Cypripedium arietinum	vascular plant	none
St. Lawrence Grapefern	Botrychium rugulosum	vascular plant	none

Special Concern A species of special concern, while not endangered or threatened, is extremely uncommon in the state, or has a unique or highly specific habitat requirement and deserves careful monitoring of its status. Species on the periphery of their range that are not listed as threatened may be included in this category along with species that were once threatened or endangered but now have increased or protected populations.

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Group	Federal Status
Cerulean Warbler	Setophaga cerulea	bird	none
Common Gallinule	Gallinula galeata	bird	none
Forster's Tern	Sterna forsteri	bird	none
Hooded Warbler	Setophaga citrina	bird	none
Louisiana Waterthrush	Parkesia motacilla	bird	none
Red-shouldered Hawk	Buteo lineatus	bird	none
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	bird	none
Sandy Laccaria	Laccaria trullisata	fungus	none
A Species of Fungus	Lactarius fuliginellus	fungus	none
Leonard's Skipper	Hesperia leonardus	insect	none
Regal Fritillary	Speyeria idalia	insect	none
Northern Barrens Tiger Beetle	Cicindela patruela patruela	insect	none
Plains Pocket Mouse	Perognathus flavescens	mammal	none
Black Sandshell	Ligumia recta	mussel	none
Creek Heelsplitter	Lasmigona compressa	mussel	none
Plains Hog-nosed Snake	Heterodon nasicus	reptile	none
Gophersnake	Pituophis catenifer	reptile	none
A Jumping Spider	Tutelina formicaria	spider	none

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Group	Federal Status
A Jumping Spider	Paradamoetas fontana	spider	none
Rhombic-petaled Evening Primrose	Oenothera rhombipetala	vascular plant	none
Sea-beach Needlegrass	Aristida tuberculosa	vascular plant	none
Autumn Fimbristylis	Fimbristylis autumnalis	vascular plant	none
American Ginseng	Panax quinquefolius	vascular plant	none
Thread-like Naiad	Najas gracillima	vascular plant	none
Beach-heather	Hudsonia tomentosa	vascular plant	none
Least Moonwort	Botrychium simplex	vascular plant	none
Waterwillow	Decodon verticillatus	vascular plant	none
Marginated Rush	Juncus marginatus	vascular plant	none
One-flowered Broomrape	Orobanche uniflora	vascular plant	none

Other species and elements of interest

In addition to these species, sand hill crane breeding areas and waterbird colonies (including great blue herons and great egrets) are known from areas adjacent to the watershed. These species use wetland and farmland areas in the watershed for feeding

Common Name	Scientific Name
Plants:	
Long-Bearded Hawkweed	Hieracium longipilum
A Species of Pondweed	Potamogeton bicupulatus
Half Bristly Bramble	Rubus semisetosus

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Rare Natural Communities

1. Conifer Swamp
2. Dry Sand Prairie
3. Emergent Marsh
4. Mixed Oak Forest
5. Oak Savanna Dune Subtype
6. Poor Fen

Invasive Species Two invasive plant species are found within the watershed:

Form(s)	Sources
Invasive Plant Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eurasian watermilfoil (<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curly-leaf pondweed (<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flowering rush (<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reed Canary Grass (<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purple loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buckthorn (<i>Rhamnus frangula</i>)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Reed grass (<i>Phragmites australis subsp. australis</i>)
Invasive Animal Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rusty crayfish (<i>Orconectes rusticus</i>)

Trends in Wildlife

Increase in E&T Species

In the past 10 years, 25 plant and animal species found within the watershed have been added to the endangered, threatened or special concern species list either due to habitat loss, discovery within the watershed or both.

Increase in Invasive Species

While the number of confirmed presence of Aquatic Invasive Species has really not increased significantly (the plant species listed above were all present in the watershed in 2004), the concern and emphasis on having AIS addressed has increased significantly. In addition the publicity and air of impending threat brought on by new species to Minnesota (most notably Zebra Mussels and Asian Carp) have increased public concern and compelled action by the legislature and state agencies.

Loss of Habitat

The Metropolitan Water Management Act provides that wildlife and fish conservation shall receive equal consideration and be coordinated with other features of water resource development programs.

Riparian Habitats

Riparian habitat is found along the banks of a river, stream, lake or other body of water. Riparian habitats are ecologically diverse and may be home to a wide range of plants, insects and [amphibians](#) that make them ideal for different species of birds. Riparian areas can be found in many types of habitats, including grassland, wetland and forest environments.

Riparian vegetation is ideally suited to stabilize stream or lake banks, and anchor soil from the fluctuating water levels found in many Sand Plain water resources thereby reducing erosion and delivery of suspended solids.

Riparian habitat in the District has been increasingly converted to more formal landscape covers which favor shallow rooted plants unable to properly protect the sandy easily eroded lake and stream banks

Animal Damage

Wildlife damage management is an activity that seeks to balance the needs of human activity with the needs of wildlife to the mutual enhancement of both.

Sometimes the solution to an animal-human conflict requires the human to change his or her behavior. Other times, the solution is to change the animal's behavior. Various tools and strategies are

used to reduce human-animal conflict, such as behavior modification, repellents, exclusion, habitat modification, relocation, lethal control etc.

Wildlife Management Needs

Cooperation With Other State Organizations To develop and maintain partnerships with the appropriate State agencies to jointly establish and meet wildlife, fish, and threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat goals, objectives, and standards.

To cooperate with other agencies, conservation organizations, concerned landowners, and individuals in all appropriate aspects of wildlife, fish, and threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat management.

The District needs to maintain contacts with State and other educational institutions teaching wildlife and fish management or related courses. These contacts shall keep the institutions currently informed on Watershed District issues, concerns, and opportunities and promote the fact finding necessary to their resolution.

Frequently, schools can make use of Watershed District resources for study and experimental or demonstration areas. Studies of Watershed District issues, concerns, and opportunities by graduate students are encouraged.

Protection and Development of Wildlife and Fish Habitat

The Metropolitan Water Management Act provides that wildlife and fish conservation shall receive equal consideration and be coordinated with other features of water resource development programs.

Contact the MDNR Fish and Wildlife regarding water related projects within the Watershed District, regardless of size, where existing or potential wildlife and fish values, public relations considerations, or technical problems warrant such action. This direction also applies to ditches, other construction projects, and similar activities which the Watershed District carries out or permits within the Watershed District, where such activities affect streams or water impoundments.

Management Indicators

Selection of Management Indicators	Select management indicators for a forest plan or project that best represent the issues, concerns, and opportunities to support recovery of Federally-listed species, provide continued viability of sensitive species, and enhance management of wildlife and fish for commercial, recreational, scientific, subsistence, or aesthetic values or uses. Management indicators representing overall objectives for wildlife, fish, and plants may include species, groups of species with similar habitat relationships, or habitats that are of high concern.
Determination of Conservation Strategies	To preclude trends toward endangerment that would result in the need for Federal listing, units must develop conservation strategies for those sensitive species whose continued existence may be negatively affected by the forest plan or a proposed project. To devise conservation strategies, first conduct biological assessments of identified sensitive species.
Analysis of Habitat Capability	In analyzing proposed actions, conduct habitat analyses to determine the cumulative effects of each alternative on management indicators selected in the plan or project area.
Habitat	Accomplish Watershed District objectives for wildlife and fish habitat improvement through direct management and integrate wildlife and fish habitat improvements into other resource project activities, as well.
Habitat Management	Accomplish Watershed District objectives for wildlife and fish habitat improvement through direct management and integrate wildlife and fish habitat improvements into other resource project activities, as well.
Coordination With Other Resources And Mitigation Of Impacts On Fish And Wildlife Resources	Coordinate fish and wildlife habitat requirements with other resource needs in all Watershed District planning activities. Determine how resource management activities can be conducted to meet wildlife and fish habitat objectives. Mitigate adverse impacts of resource management activities. Examine projects that affect wildlife and fish needs, and evaluate the effects of alternative proposals in relation to the desired habitat conditions.
Riparian Habitats	Develop and implement management strategies (objectives, management prescriptions, and monitoring) to meet riparian habitat goals for dependent fish and wildlife species. During project environmental analysis, describe the desired riparian habitat condition at some future time in terms of specific objectives for stream surface shaded, streambank stability,

streambed sedimentation, gross-forb cover, shrub cover, and tree cover needed to meet planned objectives.

Animal Damage To protect Watershed District resources

To protect activities taking place within the watershed and to reduce threats to human health and safety

**Wildlife And
Fish Damage
Management**

Threatened and Endangered Species Follow specific species control plans for state listed species cleared through consultation with the DNR.

Game and Furbearers Control damage caused by game animals and furbearers through hunting or trapping, where practicable, in cooperation and consultation with the State fish and wildlife agencies, where appropriate.

Nongame Species Control damage caused by nongame species within the Watershed District in close cooperation with the State fish and wildlife agencies, or other involved state or federal agencies.

Birds Nonlethal repellents, frightening devices, pesticides, or physical barriers may be used to prevent or reduce resource damage or hazards, where birds damage reforestation or other resources, or where they create health hazards. Obtain permits from the DNR for any lethal control of species protected under law. Consult the DNR for permit requirements and procedures.

Fish and Aquatic Animals States or other responsible agencies have the authority to control undesirable fish and aquatic animals in Watershed District waters. The Watershed District is responsible for coordinating with the responsible agencies to develop a work plan to ensure control activities are consistent with direction provided in the Comprehensive Plan. Control activities conducted by the Watershed District must meet appropriate environmental analysis requirements and be consistent with forest plan direction.

Endangered & Threatened Species Manage Watershed District habitats and activities for threatened and endangered species to achieve recovery objectives so that special protection measures provided under the Endangered Species Act are no longer necessary.

Promote recovery efforts through Research and Development and State and Private conservation programs

**Sensitive
Species**

Develop and implement management practices to ensure that species do not become threatened or endangered because of Watershed District actions

Maintain viable populations of all native and desired nonnative wildlife, fish, and plant species in habitats distributed throughout their geographic range within the Watershed District.

Develop and implement management objectives for populations and/or habitat of sensitive species.

**Planning for
Management
and Recovery**

Sensitive species of native plant and animal species must receive special management emphasis to ensure their viability and to preclude trends toward endangerment that would result in the need for listing as an endangered, threatened or special concern species

There must be no impacts to sensitive species without an analysis of the significance of adverse effects on the populations, its habitat, and on the viability of the species as a whole. It is essential to establish population viability objectives when making decisions that would significantly reduce sensitive species numbers.

