

Section 6.0 - Biodiversity

Section 6.3 - Rare Species and Species at Risk within the La Salle River Watershed

(Source: Manitoba Conservation Data Center)

The Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (CDC) is a storehouse of information on Manitoba's biodiversity – its plant and animal species, as well as its natural plant communities. Housed within the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch of Manitoba Conservation, the CDC is Manitoba's authoritative source of information on rare species, including Species at Risk. The information has many uses, including conservation and development planning, and is made available to government agencies, the private sector, and the public.

The Manitoba CDC is a member of NatureServe, a network of over 80 similar organizations throughout Canada, the United States and Latin America. NatureServe and its member programs use a scientifically and empirically defined methodology and rigorous standards common to all CDC's throughout the network. The CDC exchanges its biodiversity data annually with NatureServe, thereby gaining access to the expertise of a team of biodiversity scientists from throughout the western hemisphere.

The CDC has developed lists of plant and animal species and plant communities, also known as elements of biodiversity, found in Manitoba. It assigns each of these elements a conservation status rank, based on how rare the species or community is in Manitoba, and then collects detailed information on where the provincially rare elements have been found. These locations, known as element occurrences, are mapped using specialized geographic information system (GIS) and database software known as Biotics.

The following information on species occurring within the LaSalle River Watershed is based on existing data known to the Manitoba CDC at the time of the request. These data are dependent on the research and observations of CDC staff and others who have shared their data, and reflects our current state of knowledge. An absence of a data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present; in many areas, comprehensive surveys have never been completed. Therefore, this information should be regarded neither as a final statement on the occurrence of any species of concern, nor as a substitute for on-site surveys for species as part of environmental assessments. Also, because the Manitoba CDC's Biotics database is continually updated and because information requests are evaluated by type of action, any given response is only appropriate for its respective request.

The Manitoba CDC should be contacted for an update on this natural heritage information if more than six months passes before it is utilized.

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Conservation Status Ranks for Species found within the LaSalle River Watershed:

| SCIENTIFIC NAME (COMMON NAME) | Number of occurrences ¹ | Manitoba Status Rank ² |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Plants³ | | |
| <i>Cyperus erythrorhizos</i> (Red-root Flatsedge) | 1 | Very Rare (S1) |
| <i>Euphorbia geyeri</i> (Prostrate Spurge) | 1 | Very Rare (S1) |
| <i>Amorpha fruticosa</i> (False Indigo) | 1 | Very Rare (S1S2) |
| <i>Lygodesmia rostrata</i> (Annual Skeletonweed) | 2 | Very Rare (S1S2) |
| <i>Arisaema triphyllum ssp. triphyllum</i> (Jack-in-the-pulpit) | 1 | Rare (S2) |
| <i>Carex cristatella</i> (Crested Sedge) | 2 | Rare (S2) |
| <i>Circaea lutetiana ssp. canadensis</i> (Large Enchanter's-nightshade) | 1 | Rare (S2) |
| <i>Cyperus houghtonii</i> (Houghton's Umbrella-sedge) | 1 | Rare (S2) |
| <i>Cyperus schweinitzii</i> (Schweinitz's Flatsedge) | 1 | Rare (S2) |
| <i>Dalea villosa var. villosa</i> (Silky Prairie-clover) | 4 | Rare (S2) |
| <i>Heteranthera dubia</i> (Water Star-grass) | 1 | Rare (S2) |
| <i>Orobanche ludoviciana</i> (Louisiana Broom-rape) | 2 | Rare (S2) |
| <i>Panicum linearifolium</i> (White-haired Panic-grass) | 1 | Rare (S2) |
| <i>Carex emoryi</i> (Emory's Sedge) | 1 | Rare (S2?) |
| <i>Boltonia asteroides var. recognita</i> (White Boltonia) | 3 | Rare (S2S3) |
| <i>Lotus purshianus</i> (Prairie Trefoil) | 1 | Rare (S2S3) |
| <i>Hudsonia tomentosa</i> (False Heather) | 1 | Uncommon (S3) |
| <i>Phryma leptostachya</i> (Lopseed) | 1 | Uncommon (S3) |
| <i>Stipa viridula</i> (Green Needle Grass) | 1 | Uncommon (S3) |
| <i>Verbena bracteata</i> (Bracted Vervain) | 1 | Uncommon (S3) |
| <i>Viola conspersa</i> (Dog Violet) | 1 | Uncommon (S3?) |
| <i>Carex tribuloides</i> (Prickly Sedge) | 1 | SNA |
| <i>Sisyrinchium campestre</i> (White-eyed Grass) | 2 | SU |
| Animals⁴ | | |
| <i>Athene cunicularia</i> (Burrowing Owl) | 1 | Very Rare (S1B) |
| <i>Macrhybopsis storeriana</i> (Silver Chub) | 5 | Uncommon (S3) |
| <i>Ichthyomyzon castaneus</i> (Chestnut Lamprey) | 1 | Uncommon (S3S4) |
| <i>Strix varia</i> (Barred Owl) | 2 | Uncommon (S3S4) |
| Plant Community | | |
| <i>Salix exigua shrubland</i> (Sandbar Willow Shrubland) | 1 | Uncommon (S3S4) |

1: The number of times a specific example of a plant, animal or vegetative community occurs at a specific geographic location within the LaSalle River Watershed.

2: Please refer to Conservation Status Rank Definitions

3: Vascular and Non-Vascular plants

4: Vertebrate and Invertebrate animals

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Conservation Status Rank Definitions:

The following definitions, stated in general terms, are used by the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre.

- S1** Very rare throughout its range or in the province (5 or fewer occurrences, or very few remaining individuals). May be especially vulnerable to extirpation.
- S2** Rare throughout its range or in the province (6 to 20 occurrences). May be vulnerable to extirpation.
- S3** Uncommon throughout its range or in the province (21 to 100 occurrences).
- S4** Widespread, abundant, and apparently secure throughout its range or in the province, with many occurrences, but the element is of long-term concern (> 100 occurrences).
- S5** Demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure throughout its range or in the province, and essentially eradicable under present conditions.
- SU** Possibly in peril, but status uncertain; more information needed.
- SH** Historically known; may be rediscovered.
- S#S#** Numeric range rank: A range between two consecutive numeric ranks. Denotes range of uncertainty about the exact status of the species (e.g., S1S2).
- S#B** Breeding: Basic rank refers to the breeding population of the element in the province.
- S#N** Non-breeding: Basic rank refers to the non-breeding population of the element in the province.
- SNR** A species not ranked. A rank has not yet assigned or the species has not been evaluated.
- SNA** A conservation status rank is not applicable to the element.

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General Information for the Watershed Plan:

Description/history of organizations activities/mandate in the La Salle River Watershed:

The Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (MBCDC) is a storehouse of information on Manitoba's biodiversity – its plant and animal species, as well as its natural plant communities. The MBCDC functions under the umbrella of NatureServe and NatureServe Canada, a network of 75 similar centres throughout Canada, the United States and Latin America. This network, along with a central team of scientists, maintains science-based information about the biodiversity of the western hemisphere.

Description of the data collected and why it is collected i.:

The MBCDC has developed lists of plant and animal species and plant communities, also known as elements of biodiversity, found in Manitoba. MBCDC assigns each of these elements a conservation status rank, based on how rare the species or community is in Manitoba, then collects detailed information on where the provincially rare elements have been found. These locations, known as element occurrences, are mapped in a geographic information system (GIS) and entered into Biotics a species and plant community database. The MBCDC uses a scientifically and empirically defined methodology and rigorous standards common to all CDC's throughout the network. The information has many uses, including conservation and development planning, and is made available to government, the private sector, and the public.

Description of information gaps that exist and recommendation of follow up reports or studies that could be conducted:

These data are dependent on the research and observations of our scientists and reflects our current state of knowledge. An absence of data does not confirm the absence of any rare or endangered species. Many areas of the province have never been thoroughly surveyed, however, and the absence of data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present. The information should, therefore, not be regarded as a final statement on the occurrence of any species of concern nor should it substitute for on-site surveys for species or environmental assessments.

Recommendations on best management practices, risk management or watershed management policies that will assist in alleviating concern and appropriate locations for each practice within the Sub Watersheds:

Comments on threats to some specific aquatic species which occur in the LaSalle River watershed;

Chestnut Lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon castaneus*) - Subject to Blockage/alteration of tributary.

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Silver Chub (*Macrhybopsis storeriana*) - Main core population in Red River susceptible to habitat destruction. All populations are susceptible to human activities.

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Please contact the Manitoba CDC for an update on this natural heritage information if more than six months passes before it is utilised.

Third party requests for products wholly or partially derived from the Biotics database must be approved by the Manitoba CDC before information is released. Once approved, the primary user will identify the Manitoba CDC as data contributors on any map or publication using data from our database, as the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre; Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch, Manitoba Conservation.