

RAVINE LIFE THROUGH THE YEAR



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This project is possible thanks to our contributors:



The Park District of Highland Park



The City of Highland Park



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative



Gary Borger Chapter of Trout Unlimited

For more information, visit www.pdhp.org/ravines

PROTECTING OUR GREAT LAKE

In 2010, the Park District of Highland Park received funding from the United States EPA to aid in restoration of fish habitat. This initiative brought many members of the community together to work in the ravines. Together, we made it possible for fish to move into the ravine stream from Lake Michigan during spring migration and find places to lay their eggs in the streams. We continue to monitor water quality, renew stream features, clean up trash and educate our residents about the function and value of the lake and its tributary streams.

Taking stewardship of the ravines, lakefront and the plants and animals they support ensures they will continue to thrive as part of what makes Highland Park a beautiful place to live.



Spring

The winter ice melts and the streams fill with spring rain.

Follow the animal tracks throughout the seasons.



Adult White Suckers

Some Lake Michigan fish are called to swim upstream by flowing water and changing temperatures at the mouth of the ravines.

They are here to lay their eggs in nests made of gravel. Ravine streams provide sheltered habitat that protects their young.

Wildflowers such as Trillium, Mayapple and Hepatica begin to sprout on the ravine slopes. The plants that grow here enjoy the microclimate, a zone of cooler temperatures and moisture, that occurs near the lake.

Trout Lily



Summer

A time for ravine life to grow and thrive.



Even Baby Bugs are Cute!

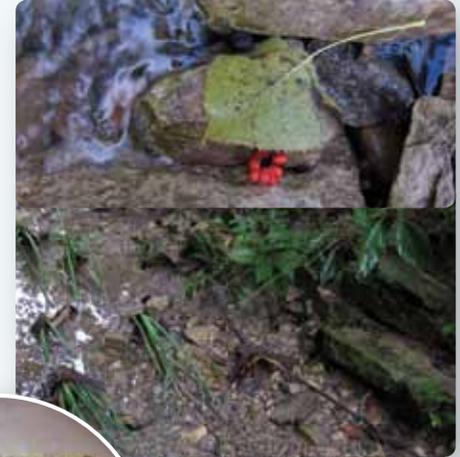


Black Fly

The fish eggs hatch and the baby fish are hungry! Young fish come in from Lake Michigan and use the shelter of the ravines in order to eat and grow before moving back to the big lake.

Fish love to feast on mayfly larvae and dragonfly nymphs. These are among the small but important insects called macroinvertebrates that spend part of their life cycle in the stream.

Wildflowers, trees and shrubs along the stream channel help keep the soil on the banks stable and provide cover for the fish.



Baby Fish (White Sucker)



Autumn



The leaves that fall during autumn bring nutrients to the earth. On the streambanks and ravine slopes, they decompose and create a rich organic layer called humus. This blanket of coarse material helps hold soil in place while keeping it moist and cool.

Plants and animals prepare for winter by storing energy in many forms.

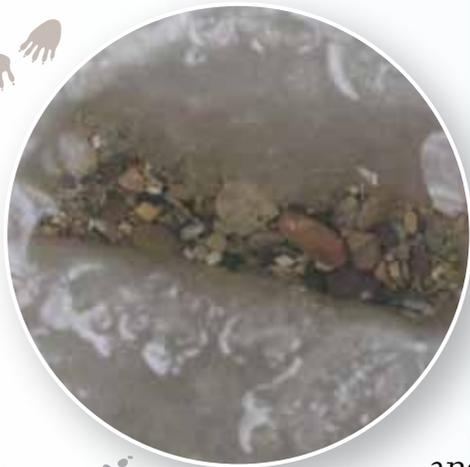


Notice the amount of tree cover over the stream. Small headwaters such as these are naturally shady. With less sunshine to fuel growth of aquatic plants, the creatures that live in these waters rely on outside sources such as falling leaves to get nutrients.



Winter

A time to rest and conserve energy.



Although the stream is covered with ice, a small flow of water usually trickles underneath. Deeper pools and cuts in the streambank can provide hiding places for overwintering fish and drinking water for thirsty creatures.

Snow acts as an insulator, blanketing and protecting plants and animals from the deep freeze. But not everyone is hidden away! Many animals leave their tracks in the snow and give us clues about their winter activities.



Photo Credit: Annie Mantyband

HOW CAN I HELP?

THERE ARE MANY WAYS
YOU CAN GET INVOLVED
TO SUPPORT THE RAVINES:

- [Volunteer](#) with PDHP Natural Areas to help with restoration and education efforts, or organize your own group to do a neighborhood cleanup.
- Limit or eliminate the use of lawn chemicals, road salts and pesticides on your property.
- Store rainfall in convenient rain barrels and use it to refresh your garden in drier times.
- Use [native plants](#) in your landscape and keep lawns (and lawn sprinklers) away from ravine edges.
- Secure recyclables such as plastic bottles and bags so they don't blow away.
- Make a habit of picking up litter in your neighborhood.

Visit www.pdhp.org/hpravines for more information!

Note to Emily: ([link to: http://www.pdhp.org/index.aspx?page=212](http://www.pdhp.org/index.aspx?page=212))

([link to: http://www.cityhpil.com/documents/16/Select%20Native%20Ravine%20Plants%20for%20Restoration-%20April%202011.PDF](http://www.cityhpil.com/documents/16/Select%20Native%20Ravine%20Plants%20for%20Restoration-%20April%202011.PDF))



Park District of Highland Park

636 Ridge Road • Highland Park, IL 60035

847.831.3810 • www.pdhp.org