

Milan Towpath MetroPark Natural Resource Management Plan

Tara Kauffman, Natural Resources Manager
Brad Phillips, Environmental Projects Coordinator
(December 2012-updated February 2019)

Erie MetroParks mission is to conserve natural resources while connecting the community with nature through education and exploration.

Features and Resources

Milan Towpath MetroPark is a linear rail trail park. It is accessed just north of the downtown Milan Village square, at the bottom of the hill on the north end of North Main Street. It is a mile long and ends at a barricade that crosses the trail and is marked with a sign stating the trail ends here. This section of trail has a natural surface (*see attachment property map*). The south section of the greenway follows the towpath of the Milan Canal which existed from 1826 to 1869. Portions of the canal are still present along the trail, functioning as wetlands and stream channels. Lying between the trail and the Huron River is a 70 acre parcel known as the "Oxbow". This parcel is owned by the Village of Milan and a conservation easement on the property is co-held by Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Erie MetroParks.

The last remaining warehouse from the Milan Canal days "Water Street Warehouse" is also included in this property. It sits at the south end trailhead and is currently leased.

The greenway has gone through a tremendous amount of litigation as the trail was constructed on an inactive Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway corridor which runs along numerous adjacent property owners. The outcome of those settlements has left Erie MetroParks with two sections of trail that are not connected.

The plant list only includes specimens found within the park borders. Plant diversity is moderately good, with 129 species found to date (*see attachment plant list through 2016*).

The bird list includes species which can be detected from the property, which is a much wider swath than the trail area itself. Bird diversity is moderately good, with 73 species found to date (*see attachment bird list thru 2016*). Bird habitats are diverse, as they include forest, shrub/scrub, and riverine areas.

Other vertebrates have been found in incidental survey work, and total 21 species (*see attachment vertebrate list thru 2011*).

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Management Strategies

The primary uses of the Greenway are casual hiking, biking and bird watching. Maintaining a clear open and safe path is the primary goal of management. Reducing the overall presence of non-native invasive species is also important to maintain a quality habitat and hiking ambiance.

Invasive Species

Numerous woody invasive shrubs are found along the Greenway, including Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), Autumn Olive (*Eleagnus umbellata*) and Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*), as well as Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) and Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*). The most troublesome herbaceous plant is Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*). As this park is very narrow, reinvasion from neighboring properties is very likely, so control will be an ongoing process.

The Oxbow property, which is owned by the village of Milan and lies between this park and the Huron River, has a major infestation of Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) near the river.

Milan Towpath





PLANT List, Milan Towpath MetroPark thru 2016

| Code | SciName | Common Name | MTM | Origin | Listed | Invasive |
|------|--|----------------------------------|-----|--------|--------|----------|
| P | | | | | | |
| | <i>Agrimonia parviflora</i> Aiton | Agrimony, Small-flowered | X | N | | |
| | <i>Anemone virginiana</i> L. | Anemone, Tall (Thimbleweed) | X | N | | |
| | <i>Symphyotrichum urophyllum</i> (Lindl.) G.L. Nesom [<i>Aster saggitifolius</i> Wedem ex Willd.] | Aster, Arrow-leaved | X? | N | | |
| | <i>Symphyotrichum lateriflorum</i> (L.) [<i>Aster l. us</i> (L.) Britt.] | Aster, Calico | X? | N | | |
| | <i>Symphyotrichum</i> sp, lanceolate | Aster, lanceolate | X | N | | |
| | <i>Geum vernum</i> (Raf.) T & G. | Avens, Spring | X | N | | |
| | <i>Geum canadense</i> Jacq. | Avens, White | X | N | | |
| | <i>Galium aparine</i> L. | Bedstraw, Cleavers | X | N | | |
| | <i>Galium triflorum</i> Michx. | Bedstraw, Sweet-scented | X | N | | |
| | <i>Calystegia sepium</i> (L) R.Br. | Bindweed, Hedge | X | N | | |
| | <i>Senecio glabellus</i> Poir. | Buttertop | X | A | | |
| | <i>Daucus carota</i> L. | Carrot, Wild (Queen Anne's Lace) | X | A | | |
| | <i>Chelidonium majus</i> L. | Celandine | X | A | | |
| | <i>Ranunculus ficaria</i> L. | Celandine, Lesser | X | A | | X |
| | <i>Cerastium fontanum</i> Baumg.[<i>C.vulgatum</i>] | Chickweed, Common Mouse-eared | X | A | | |
| | <i>Osmorhiza longistylis</i> (Torr) DC | Cicely, Smooth Sweet | X | N | | |
| | <i>Pilea pumila</i> (L) A.Gray | Clearweed, Common | X | N | | |
| | <i>Trifolium repens</i> L. | Clover, White | X | A | | |
| | <i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i> L. | Coneflower, Cut-leaved | X | N | | |
| | <i>Valerianella</i> sp | Corn-salad | X | N | | |
| | <i>Heracleum maximum</i> Bartram | Cow-parsnip | X | N | | |
| | <i>Coronilla varia</i> L. | Crown-vetch | X | A | | |
| | <i>Echinocystis lobata</i> (Michx.) T.& G. | Cucumber, Wild | X | N | | |
| | <i>Silphium perfoliatum</i> L. | Cup-plant | X | N | | |
| | <i>Hesperis matronalis</i> L. | Dame's Rocket | X | A | | |
| | <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> Weber | Dandelion, Common | X | A | | |
| | <i>Hemerocallis fulva</i> L. | Day-lily, Orange | X | N | | |
| | <i>Lamium purpureum</i> L. | Dead-nettle, Purple | X | A | | |
| | <i>Rumex crispus</i> L. | Dock, Curled | X | A | | |

| Code | SciName | Common Name | MTM | Origin | Listed | Invasive |
|------|---|----------------------------------|-----|--------|--------|----------|
| | <i>Apocynum cannabinum</i> L. | Dogbane, Indian-Hemp | X | N | | |
| | <i>Scrophularia marilandica</i> L. | Figwort, Maryland | X | N | | |
| | <i>Erigeron annuus</i> (L) Pers. | Fleabane, Daisy (toothy) | X | N | | |
| | <i>Erigeron philadelphicus</i> L. | Fleabane, Philadelphia | X | N | | |
| | <i>Gaura biennis</i> L. | Gaura, Biennial | X | N | | |
| | <i>Asarum canadense</i> L. | Ginger, Wild | X | N | | |
| | <i>Solidago canadensis</i> L. | Goldenrod, Canada (+Tall) | X | N | | |
| | <i>Solidago gigantea</i> Aiton | Goldenrod, Smooth | X | N | | |
| | <i>Poa</i> sp. | Grass, Bluegrass, a | X | Z | | |
| | <i>Digitaria</i> sp. | Grass, Crabgrass, a | X | A | | |
| | <i>Lolium pratense</i> (Huds.) Darbyshire [<i>Festuca pr..sis</i>] | Grass, Meadow Fescue? | X? | A | | |
| | <i>Muhlenbergia</i> sp | Grass, Muhly | X | U | | |
| | <i>Muhlenbergia schreberi</i> Gmel. | Grass, Nimblewill | X | N | | |
| | <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> L. | Grass, Orchard | X | A | | |
| | <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> L. | Grass, Reed Canary | X | A | | X |
| | <i>Elymus riparius</i> Wieg. | Grass, Streambank Wild Rye | X? | N | | |
| | <i>Elymus virginicus</i> L. | Grass, Virginia Wild Rye | X | N | | |
| | <i>Glechoma hederacea</i> L. | Ground Ivy | X | A | | |
| | <i>Stachys tenuifolia</i> Willd. | Hedge-nettle, Common | X? | N | | |
| | <i>Amphicarpa bracteata</i> (L.) Fern. | Hog-peanut | X | N | | |
| | <i>Humulus lupulus</i> L. | Hops, Common | X | N | | |
| | <i>Duchesnea indica</i> (Andrews) Focke | Indian-Strawberry | X | A | | |
| | <i>Vernonia gigantea</i> (Walt) Trel ex Branner & Coville | Ironweed, Tall | X | N | | |
| | <i>Arisaema triphyllum</i> (L.) Schott | Jack-in-the-pulpit | X | N | | |
| | <i>Impatiens capensis</i> Meerb. | Jewelweed, Orange (Touch-me-not) | X? | N | | |
| | <i>Eutrochium purpureum</i> (L.) E.E. Lamont [Eupatorium p.. L.] | Joe-Pye-Weed, Purple (Sweet) | X? | N | | |
| | <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L. | Knotweed, Prostrate | X? | A | | |
| | <i>Lactuca canadensis</i> L. | Lettuce, Wild | X | N | | |
| | <i>Lysimachia ciliata</i> L. | Loosestrife, Fringed | X | N | | |
| | <i>Medicago lupulina</i> L. | Medick, Black | X | A | | |
| | <i>Acalypha virginica</i> L. var <i>rhomboidea</i> Cooperr. | Mercury, Three-seeded | X | N | | |
| | <i>Asclepias syriaca</i> L. | Milkweed, Common | X | N | | |

| Code | SciName | Common Name | MTM | Origin | Listed | Invasive |
|------|---|--------------------------------|-----|--------|--------|----------|
| | <i>Mentha arvensis</i> L. | Mint, Field | X? | N | | |
| | <i>Lysimachia nummularia</i> L. | Moneywort | X | A | | |
| | <i>Artemisia vulgaris</i> L. | Mugwort, Common | X | A | | |
| | <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> (M.Bieb) Cavara & Grande | Mustard, Garlic | X | A | | X |
| | <i>Urtica dioica</i> L. | Nettle, Stinging | X | N | | |
| | <i>Circaea lutetiana</i> L. | Nightshade, Common Enchanter's | X | N | | |
| | <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i> (L.) Sweet | Ox-eye, Smooth | X | N | | |
| | <i>Lepidum virginicum</i> L. | Peppergrass | X | N | | |
| | <i>Plantago major</i> L. | Plantain, Common | X | A | | |
| | <i>Plantago rugelii</i> Decne. | Plantain, Rugel's(Pale) | X | N | | |
| | <i>Phytolacca americana</i> L. | Pokeweed | X | N | | |
| | <i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i> L. | Ragweed, common | X | N | | |
| | <i>Packera aurea</i> (L.) [Senecio aureus L.] | Ragwort, Golden | X | N | | |
| | <i>Collinsonia canadensis</i> L. | Richweed (Horsebalm) | X? | N | | |
| | <i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i> Fisch. & Lall. | Rue, Tall Meadow | X | N | | |
| | <i>Juncus tenuis</i> Willd. | Rush, Path | X | N | | |
| | <i>Carex sec. Laxiflorae</i> | Sedge, laxiflorae | X | N | | |
| | <i>Ageratina altissima</i> (L.) R.M.King & H.Rob. [Eupatorium rugosum Houtt.] | Snakeroot, White | X | N | | |
| | <i>Saponaria officinalis</i> L. | Soapwort (Bouncing Bet) | X | A | | |
| | <i>Euphorbia maculata</i> L. | Spurge, Prostrate | X | A | | |
| | <i>Hackelia virginiana</i> (L.) I. M. Johnston | Stickseed, Common | X | N | | |
| | <i>Valeriana pauciflora</i> Michx. | Valerian, Large-flowered | X | N | | |
| | <i>Verbena urticifolia</i> L. | Vervain, White | X | N | | |
| | <i>Clematis virginiana</i> L. | Virgin's-bower | X | N | | |
| | <i>Lycopus americanus</i> Muhl. | Water-horehound, Cut-leaved | X | N | | |
| | <i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i> L. | Waterleaf, Virginia | X | N | | |
| | <i>Verbesina alternifolia</i> (L)Britt. | Wingstem | X | N | | |
| | <i>Oxalis stricta</i> L. | Wood-sorrel, Common yellow | X? | N | | |

89

0

3

T

Fraxinus pennsylvanica Marshall

Ash, Red and Green

X

N

| Code | SciName | Common Name | MTM | Origin | Listed | Invasive |
|------|---|------------------------------|-----|--------|--------|----------|
| | <i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> Thunb. | Autumn-olive | X | A | | X |
| | <i>Tilia americana</i> L. | Basswood | X | N | | |
| | <i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> Thunb. | Bittersweet, Oriental | X | A | | X |
| | <i>Rubus occidentalis</i> L. | Bramble, Black Raspberry | X | N | | |
| | <i>Rubus allegheniensis</i> Porter. | Bramble, Common Blackberry | X? | N | | |
| | <i>Aesculus glabra</i> Willd. | Buckeye, Ohio | X | N | | |
| | <i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> L. | Buckthorn, European | X? | A | | X |
| | <i>Catalpa speciosa</i> (Warder) Engelm. | Catalpa, Northern | X | Z | | |
| | <i>Prunus avium</i> L. | Cherry, Sweet | X | A | | |
| | <i>Prunus serotina</i> Ehrh. | Cherry, Wild Black | X | N | | |
| | <i>Prunus virginiana</i> L. | Choke Cherry | X | N | | |
| | <i>Populus deltoides</i> Marsh | Cottonwood | X | N | | |
| | <i>Parthenocissus vitacea</i> (Knerr.) A.Hitch.[P.inserta] | Creeper, Thicket | X | N | | |
| | <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> (L) Planch. | Creeper, Virginia | X | N | | |
| | <i>Cornus racemosa</i> Lam. | Dogwood, Gray (Panicked) | X | N | | |
| | <i>Ulmus rubra</i> Muhl. | Elm, Red (Slippery) | X | N | | |
| | <i>Ulmus americana</i> L. | Elm, White (American) | X | N | | |
| | <i>Vitis riparia</i> Michx. | Grape, Riverbank | X | N | | |
| | <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> L. | Hackberry | X | N | | |
| | <i>Carya cordiformis</i> (Wang.) K.Koch | Hickory, Bitternut | X | N | | |
| | <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> L. | Honey-locust | X | N | | |
| | <i>Lonicera maackii</i> (Rupr.) Maxim. | Honeysuckle, Amur | X | A | | X |
| | <i>Lonicera japonica</i> Thunb. | Honeysuckle, Japanese | X | A | | X |
| | <i>Lonicera morrowii</i> A.Gray | Honeysuckle, Morrow | X | A | | X |
| | <i>Lonicera tatarica</i> L. | Honeysuckle, Tartarian | X | A | | X |
| | <i>Toxicodendron radicans</i> (L) Ktze. | Ivy, Poison | X | N | | |
| | <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> L. | Locust, Black | X | Z | | |
| | <i>Acer negundo</i> L. | Maple, Ash-leaved(Box-elder) | X | N | | |
| | <i>Acer platanoides</i> L. | Maple, Norway | X | A | | X |
| | <i>Morus rubra</i> L. | Mulberry, Red | X? | N | | |
| | <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> L. | Privet, Common | X | A | | X |
| | <i>Cercis canadensis</i> L. | Redbud | X | N | | |
| | <i>Rosa multiflora</i> Thunb. | Rose, Multiflora | X | A | | X |
| | <i>Rhus glabra</i> L. | Sumac, Smooth | X | N | | |

| Code | SciName | Common Name | MTM | Origin | Listed | Invasive |
|------|---|------------------------------|-----|--------|--------|----------|
| | <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> L. | Sycamore | X | N | | |
| | <i>Campsis radicans</i> (L) Seem ex Bureau | Trumpet-creeper | X | Z | | |
| | <i>Euonymus alatus</i> (Thunb.) Sieb. | Wahoo, Winged (burning bush) | X | A | | X |
| | <i>Juglans nigra</i> L. | Walnut, Black | X | N | | |
| | <i>Euonymus fortunei</i> (Turcz.) Hand.-Mazz. | Wintercreeper, Chinese | X | A | | X |
| | | | 40 | | 0 | 12 |
| 129 | | | 129 | | 0 | 15 |

Legend for Plant List

| Code | Listed | Origin | Abundance/Distribution | Description of Code |
|------|--------|--------|------------------------|---|
| L V | | | | Lower Vascular Plant |
| P | | | | Herbaceous |
| T | | | | Woody Plant |
| | E | | | Endangered on State List |
| | P | | | Potentially Threatened on State List |
| | T | | | Threatened on State List |
| | | A | | Alien to Area and Country |
| | | N | | Native to Area, Indigenous |
| | | Z | | Naturalized from other part of country |
| | | | ** bl | found by J. Blakeman |
| | | | ** dnr | found by ODNR personnel |
| | | | ** et | found by Envirotech Consultants |
| | | | ** JB | found by J. Bissell |
| | | | ** jm | found by John Mack |
| | | | ** LT | found by L. Terveen |
| | | | A L | Abundant & Local |
| | | | A M | Abundant & Moderately Distributed |
| | | | A W | Abundant & Widespread |
| | | | ark | planted by J. Blakeman in 'ark' prairie |
| | | | C L | Common & Local |
| | | | C M | Common & Moderately Distributed |
| | | | C W | Common & Widespread |
| | | | N | Unknown Abundance or Distribution |
| | | | o | old record, not found recently |
| | | | pl | planted, usually leftover landscaping |
| | | | R L | Rare & Local |
| | | | R M | Rare and Moderately Distributed |
| | | | R W | Rare and Widespread |
| | | | re | restoration planting species |
| | | | U L | Uncommon & Local |
| | | | U M | Uncommon & Moderately Distributed |
| | | | U W | Uncommon & Widespread |
| | | | X | Present |



| Common Name | HRG | Group |
|----------------------------|-----|-------|
| Frog, Bull | X | A |
| Frog, Leopard | X | A |
| Frog, Western Chorus | X | A |
| Spring Peeper | X | A |
| Sunfish, Black-eared? | X | F |
| Chipmunk, Eastern | X | M |
| Coyote | X | M |
| Deer, White-tail | X | M |
| Mole sp | X | M |
| Muskrat | X | M |
| Opossum, Virginia | X | M |
| Rabbit, Eastern Cottontail | X | M |
| Raccoon | X | M |
| Squirrel, Fox | X | M |
| Squirrel, Red | X | M |
| Woodchuck | X | M |
| Snake, Garter | X | R |
| Snake, Water | X | R |
| Turtle, Painted | X | R |
| Turtle, Snapping | x | R |
| Turtle, Soft-shell | X | R |



Birds of Milan Towpath Trail thru 2016

Thursday, February 09, 2017

| Species | MTM |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Canada Goose | Summer Resident |
| Wood Duck | Summer Resident |
| Mallard Duck | Resident |
| Wild Turkey | Resident |
| Great Blue Heron | Regular Visitor |
| Great Egret | Summer Visitor |
| Green Heron | Summer Resident? |
| Turkey Vulture | Resident |
| Bald Eagle | Resident Nearby |
| Cooper's Hawk | Resident |
| Red Shouldered Hawk | Resident |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Resident |
| American Woodcock | Migrant/Resident? |
| Ring-billed Gull | Resident |
| Herring Gull | Resident |
| Mourning Dove | Resident |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | Summer Resident |
| Chimney Swift | Summer Resident |
| Belted Kingfisher | Resident |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | Resident |
| Downy Woodpecker | Resident |
| Hairy Woodpecker | Resident |
| Yellow-shafted Flicker | Resident |
| Pileated Woodpecker | Resident |
| Eastern Wood Pewee | Summer Resident |
| Acadian Flycatcher | Summer Resident |
| Willow Flycatcher | Summer Resident |
| Eastern Phoebe | Summer Resident |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | Summer Resident |
| Yellow Throated Vireo | Spring Migrant |
| Warbling Vireo | Summer Resident |
| Red-eyed Vireo | Summer Resident |
| Blue Jay | Resident |

| Species | MTM |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| American Crow | Resident |
| Rough-winged Swallow | Summer Resident |
| Black-capped Chickadee | Resident |
| Tufted Titmouse | Resident |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | Resident |
| Carolina Wren | Resident |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | Winter Visitor |
| Ruby Crowned Kinglet | Migrant |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | Summer Resident |
| Eastern Bluebird | Resident |
| Veery | Summer Resident |
| Hermit Thrush | Migrant |
| Wood Thrush | Summer Resident |
| American Robin | Resident |
| Gray Catbird | Summer Resident |
| Starling | Resident |
| Tennessee Warbler | Migrant |
| Parula Warbler | Migrant |
| Yellow Warbler | Summer Resident |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | Migrant |
| Blackpoll Warbler | Migrant |
| American Redstart | Summer Resident |
| Common Yellowthroat | Summer Resident |
| Wilson's Warbler | Migrant |
| Scarlet Tanager | Summer Resident |
| Northern Cardinal | Resident |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | Summer Resident |
| Indigo Bunting | Summer Resident |
| Rufous Sided Towhee | Summer Resident |
| Song Sparrow | Resident |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | Migrant |
| White-throated Sparrow | Winter Visitor |
| Dark-eyed Junco | Winter Visitor |
| Red-winged blackbird | Summer Resident |
| Common Grackle | Summer Resident |

| Species | MTM |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Brown-headed Cowbird | Summer Resident |
| Orchard Oriole | Summer Resident |
| Baltimore Oriole | Summer Resident |
| House Finch | Resident |
| American Goldfinch | Resident |

73