

## TWO DISTINCT CONCERNS AT CONSERVATION AREAS

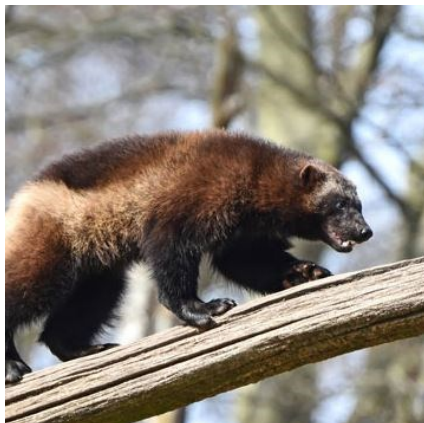


There are 2 groups of species that we hear a lot about but that are newsworthy for 2 very different reasons. Let's take a look at Species at Risk and Invasive Species.

**Species at Risk** are a species that is having a hard time surviving in the wild, maybe struggling to find food or a place to live.

Species at risk can be classified different ways. **Endangered** means there aren't as many in the wild as there should be. **Extirpated** means the species no longer exists in a certain area, but can be found elsewhere. A species that is **extinct** no longer exists anywhere on earth (like dinosaurs).

**Species become at Risk due to one or more of the following reasons:** Habitat loss, lack of food, disease, climate change & extreme weather events, pollution, invasive species (competition for resources), changing water levels and currents, pesticides and insecticides, overharvesting, and lack of genetic diversity.



So why does it matter if a species becomes 'at risk'? Because everything is **connected!** If one species becomes extinct it effects many other species such as those that feed on it or those that it may feed. On. In an ecosystem, every plant and animal, no matter how big or small, plays an important role. We all depend on each other and are connected.

Some of the Species that are at risk in the **Lakehead Watershed** are Caribou, Wolverines, Monarch Butterflies, Lake Sturgeon, Peregrine Falcon, snapping turtle Canada warbler and Little Brown Bat.

Here's the good part. **You can help.** Start by finding out more about a species at risk that interests you. Find out why it is at risk. Then find a program or project you can take part in to support that species.

- Become a **Community Scientist** and collect data on sightings through programs such as iNaturalist.
- Look for ways to **improve habitat** everywhere you can by planting native plants. Here at the LRCA Administrative Office we have planted a pollinator garden.
- Do a garbage clean up to eliminate pollution in our waters and on our land.
- Build shelters or nesting boxes for bats, birds or bees.





**Invasive Species** are any kind of living organism—an amphibian, plant, insect, fish, fungus, bacteria, or even an organism’s seeds or eggs—that is **not native to an ecosystem and causes harm**. They can harm the environment, the economy, or even human health. Species that grow and reproduce quickly, and spread aggressively, with potential to cause harm, are given the label “invasive.”

Invasive species are primarily spread by human activities, often unintentionally. People, and the goods we use, travel around the world very quickly, and they often carry uninvited species with them.

Some of the Invasive Species in the **Lakehead Region include**; the Emerald Ash Borer, Zebra Mussels, Rusty Crayfish, Spiny Waterflee, Purple Loosestrife, and Sea Lamprey.



Here is the important part. **We can all play a role in reducing the number of invasive species here in our Watershed.**

- Plant only native plants.
- Don't move wood
- Clean all boating and fishing gear and equipment before moving to a new location
- Record and share the presence of invasive species using EDDMaps.org
- Join an eradication program that works towards the effective removal of invasive species

