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## PÊCHE ISLAND ECOLOGY

Pêche Island is home to many rare plants and animals, including:

- 22 species of rare native plants (235 plant species documented in total)
- 2 rare reptile species
- Freshwater clams and mussels
- Birds that utilize the island include (but not limited to):
  - waterfowl: mute swan, mallard and Canada goose
  - hawks and eagles: Northern harrier, osprey, peregrine falcon, bald eagle
  - herons, cormorants and owls: Great blue heron, double-crested cormorant, green heron, Great horned owl
  - songbirds: Carolina wren, wood thrush, warblers

## PRESERVING PÊCHE ISLAND

The island's important native species are threatened by the increasing number of invasive species such as zebra mussel, Norway maple, and common reed. In an attempt to help the success of native plants and animals, a bald eagle nesting platform was installed and non-native Norway maple is removed to encourage native plant growth such as the Kentucky coffeetree.

Get involved in preserving Pêche Island and other local environmental treasures by joining the DRCC and other local environmental organizations such as the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club, Little River Enhancement Group and the Citizens Environment Alliance.

Visit [www.detroitriver.ca](http://www.detroitriver.ca) for more information.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Remains of E. Harris' plans for an island playground (1968).
- 2 Hiram Walker's stone bridge and dredged canal. Walker also laid down large amounts of topsoil and planted trees and an orchard.
- 3 Ruins of Hiram Walker's buildings and break-wall (c. 1892). Walker developed significant portions of the island and built structures including a stable, greenhouse, icehouse and a large home.
- 4 Land once cleared for farming by Joseph Laforet and family (1800's).
- 5 Location of Chief Pontiac's summer home (c.1763).
- 6 Hiding place for contraband liquor during prohibition.



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