

Vernal Pool Concept



WHAT IS A VERNAL POOL?

Vernal pools are seasonally wet depressions that are fishless and support diverse species composition. They prevent run-off and erosion, recharge groundwater, and increase water quality in adjoining river systems.



Vernal pools adjacent to or in woodlands have ample sources of dead and rotten woody material for winter hibernaculum, which help insulate hibernating species.



Mink



Wood Duck



Blue-winged Teals



Blue Flag Iris



Cardinal Flower

Vernal pools are a scarce habitat along the West Branch River Valley.



Blanding's and Painted Turtles



Cope's Gray Treefrog

Eastern Milk Snake



Blue-spotted Salamander

Vernal pools are a critical life cycle requirement for amphibians and aquatic insects. Those that retain water into the summer months provide important habitat for certain conservative species.



Leopard Frog tadpole



Green Darner dragonflies copulating



EDUCATION

As the diversity and health of the landscape improves, wildlife viewing opportunities will expand.

Complex ecosystems with high biological diversity.



Solitary Sandpiper

...in a Healthy River Valley