

# HURON RIVER PLAN

LIVINGSTON, WASHTENAW, OAKLAND, MONROE  
AND WAYNE COUNTIES



FISHERIES DIVISION

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
Revised March 12, 2002

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## PREFACE

The Huron River is an important physical feature of the landscape in southeastern Michigan flowing through wooded areas, lakes, rolling agricultural lands affected little by existing development, and through villages and cities. In an area of intensifying population growth, economic development, and changing land uses the Huron represents a unique and special resource providing the region's inhabitants with numerous benefits. In addition to supplying water for municipal, industrial, residential and agricultural uses, the river possesses significant natural values, in terms of fish, wildlife, vegetation and aesthetics, which should be preserved for their contributions to the quality of life in the region. The river environment offers a myriad of recreational opportunities to the region's inhabitants.

The Natural Rivers Act (Part 305, P.A. 451 of 1994) authorizes the Natural Resources Commission to establish a system of "natural rivers" in the state to provide for their preservation, protection and enhancement. Section 30502 of the Natural Rivers Act states, in part, that: "The commission, in the interests of the people of the state and future generations, may designate a river or portion thereof, as a natural river area for the purpose of preserving and enhancing its values for water conservation, its free flowing condition and its fish, wildlife, boating, aesthetic, flood plain, ecologic, historic and recreational values and uses."

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Huron River Planning Group (representing riparian property owners, local government, Huron River Watershed Council, other governmental agencies, and interested citizens and groups) have studied the Huron River and recommend a portion of the Huron River from Kent Lake Dam, Livingston County, to Barton Pond, Washtenaw County, be designated a "country-scenic" river. A "country-scenic" river is in an agricultural setting with narrow bands of woods or pastoral borders. Farms and other developments may be visible from the river and it may be readily accessible by road. It may have undergone some impounding and its waters should meet established water quality standards.

This report (1) provides a physical description of the river and the watershed as a whole; (2) reviews values of the river and factors affecting its future nature and use; and (3) provides a plan for the protection of the river's natural qualities and to guide its future use. The plan is the result of joint efforts of the Department of Natural Resources and the Huron River Planning Group and reflects the thoughts of a broad representation of people interested in use and protection of the many values of the Huron River.

