



GRIGGS NATURE PRESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

2023



GRIGGS NATURE PRESERVE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Columbus Nature Preserves

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department has 20 designated nature preserves that encompass over 2,850 acres across Franklin and Delaware County. Nature preserves provide for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of ecologically significant land through research, awareness, and education. The first city nature preserves were adopted in 1988 with additional preserves added in 2004, 2010, and 2016. In 2022, the designation process of nature preserves was added into Columbus City Code.

Griggs Nature Preserve



O 6245 Riverside Dr. Dublin, OH 43017

Griggs Nature Preserve features 41 acres of varying topography, including hillside slopes, steep cliffs, and river bottomlands. Griggs is part of the larger Griggs Reservoir Park and six-mile long reservoir, which runs from the dam to the north to Lane Road on the east side of the reservoir.





Features and Amenities

Features

- Mature upland forest with large diameter trees
- Over 2,700 linear feet of streams, including high-quality streams
- Numerous rare and interesting plant species, including arborvitae, snow trillium, and rock elm
- Wide range of migratory birds

Listed Species

- Indiana bat* (Myotis sodalist)
- Rayed bean mussel* (*Villosa fabalis*)
- Northern long-eared bat* (Myotis septentrionalis)
- Monarch butterfly[^]
 (Danaus plexippus)

*Endangered **Threatened ***Species of Concern ^Candidate Species

Habitat



Recommendations

To maintain, conserve, and restore Griggs Nature Preserve:



Keep the Nature Preserve in its original state. Griggs has a mature forest containing high quality streams and forested wetlands in highly urbanized watershed.



Remove invasive honeysuckle and other invasive plants. Honeysuckle is an a ggressive species that has overtaken native plants, and is present in almost 16 acres. Removal of honeysuckle should be performed first, and remove other invasive plant species as resources allow.



Install boundary markers along the Nature Preserve.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This Nature Preserve Management Plan is the culmination of efforts of the Columbus community, individuals, and groups who devoted their time and energy to the future of the City of Columbus nature preserves. We sincerely appreciate everyone who made this plan possible through their enthusiasm, commitment, creative input, and support. A special thank you to the following organizations for their leadership throughout the planning process:

Columbus Recreation & Parks Department

Columbus City Council

Columbus Mayor's Office

Columbus Department of Public Utilities, Division of Water

Columbus Recreation and Parks Commission

Nature Preserve Advisory Council

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Griggs Reservoir Known Species List (2022)



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Columbus Nature Preserves Overview

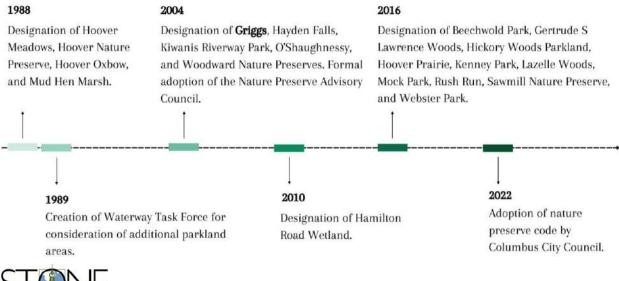
The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD) works to preserve the local natural heritage for the Columbus community to enjoy. CRPD recognizes environmentally unique and sensitive areas as designated nature preserves. The Columbus Nature Preserve system is one of a few city nature preserve programs in the state of Ohio.

All Columbus nature preserves are managed by CRPD and advised by the Nature Preserve Advisory Council (NPAC). The NPAC, previously known as the Hoover Nature Preserve Advisory Council, was formally created by City Resolution with the designation of Hoover Nature Preserve, in 1988. In 2004, it was formally renamed by Resolution. The council is composed of nine (9) members. Within the Columbus Nature Preserves, the purposes and objectives of the NPAC are to:

- 1. Advise and make recommendations to the Executive Director of CRPD concerning the management and wise use of the natural resources.
- 2. Advocate for the conservation, protection, enhancement, and wise use of the natural resources.
- 3. Foster the development and application of science-based resource policies and practices and to promote through education and example, and ethic that recognizes the interdependence of people and the environment.

The first city nature preserve was adopted in 1988, for the purpose of protecting and maintaining the drinking water supply at Hoover Reservoir. Additional preserves were designated in 2004, 2010, and 2016. The timeline below lists the year each nature preserve was designated. Note that these properties were acquired years prior to their designation. To date, the system includes over 2,850 protected acres across 20 nature preserves. Of the 20 nature preserves, ten are adjacent to Griggs, Hoover, or O'Shaughnessy Reservoirs and therefore, jointly managed by Columbus Department of Public Utilities (DPU) Division of Water.

Columbus Nature Preserve Timeline



Portions of Nature Preserves located adjacent to Hoover, Griggs, and O'Shaughnessy Reservoir qualify for inclusion in the city's Land Stewardship Program. Any landowner participating in the Land Stewardship Program must comply with the standards regarding nature preserves in the Land Stewardship Design Standards (2020). The city's Land Stewardship Program allows for authorized activities and limited access for adjacent landowners. The program provides a balanced approach to protect the long-term health of the reservoirs while maintaining public recreational access. DPU remains committed to maintaining the reservoirs for the primary function of providing a quality drinking water supply, while also providing the community with compatible recreational access.

1.2 Management Plan Purpose

This management plan details the site history, amenities, landscape context, habitat types, plant and wildlife species, and recommendations. This plan fulfills Columbus City Code 919.27's requirement for a management plan to provide the framework for management, restoration, and protection of the nature preserve. The intent is to ensure the long-term viability of the nature preserve's natural resources while allowing visitors to experience nature.

2. SITE HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

2.1 Preserve History

Griggs Nature Preserve ("Griggs") is approximately 41-acres in size, consisting of portions of Franklin County Parcel IDs #273-008373-00, 590-198696-00, and 010-232941-00. Griggs was designated a preserve in 2004. An Environmental Covenant was established in November 2006 to protect the Quarry Wetland located within Griggs Nature Preserve. The covenant area covers approximately 9-acres.



Griggs Reservoir, viewing the near shoreline

Griggs Reservoir is the oldest Columbus
permanent water supply source and was constructed in 1905. Boating and other recreational
activities were permitted to take place in 1927. The reservoir (and ultimately the nature
preserve) is named for a City Engineer, Julian Griggs, who directed the reservoir water supply
project.

2.2 Location Description

Griggs' address is 6245 Riverside Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43017 and is located south of State Route 161, east of Interstate Highway 270, north of Hayden Run Road, and west of U.S. Route 33. Griggs Reservoir includes both sides of the Scioto River, west of Quarry Lane and east of Dublin Road.

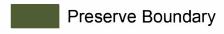
Surrounding land use includes Griggs Reservoir and the Scioto River, forested areas, and residential development. See "Griggs Nature Preserve" location map.





Griggs Nature Preserve

6245 RIVERSIDE DR, DUBLIN OH 43017







3. AMENITIES AND NATURAL RESOURCES

3.1 Amenities

No trails or other constructed amenities exist within Griggs Reservoir. Access is only possible from the Scioto River, as no public land access exists.

The reservoir itself is one of the most heavily used in Columbus, with activities such as biking, camping, fishing, power boating, organized rowing, and canoeing.



Griggs Reservoir within the preserve.

3.2 Landscape Context

Griggs contains varying topography, including hillside slopes, steep cliffs, and river bottomlands. FEMA regulatory floodway and 100-year floodplain exists throughout a majority of Griggs Reservoir. These floodplain areas provide fish and wildlife habitat, recharge groundwater, and improve surface water quality.

The following soils are mapped within Griggs:

- **Genesee silt loam** consists of well drained soils formed in generally flat floodplains.
- Milton silt loam has steep slopes, composed of well drained silty and clay till.
- Ritchey silt loam has moderate and steep slopes and is composed of erodible loamy till that is typically well drained.

3.2.1 Streams

Griggs is located in the Hayden Run-Scioto River Watershed (Ohio Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) Hydrologic Unit (HUC) #050600011204). This watershed includes portions of Columbus, as well as two Columbus suburbs: Hilliard and Dublin.

Griggs includes four perennial streams, totaling approximately 1,600 linear feet, all located on the west side of Griggs. This includes Cramer Ditch and three unnamed tributaries to Griggs Reservoir. A majority of these streams are Ohio EPA Class 3 streams, containing high quality physical habitat and a mixture of coarse granular



Perennial Cramer Ditch, located on the west side of Griggs Reservoir.



streambed materials. Numerous ephemeral and intermittent streams also exist on both sides of Griggs. In total, it is estimated Griggs contains approximately 2,700 linear feet of stream.

See "Griggs Streams & Wetlands" map.

3.2.2 Wetlands

Griggs includes approximately 12-acres of forested wetland, dominated by sycamore (Platanus occidentalis), silver maple (Acer saccharinum), cottonwood (Populus deltoides), silky dogwood (Cornus amomum), lizard's tail (Saururus cernuus), orange jewelweed (Impatiens capensis), and American bur-reed (Sparganium Americanum).



Perennial unnamed tributary to Griggs Reservoir, located on the west side of Griggs Reservoir.

An approximate 10-acre wetland within the southeastern portion of Griggs Reservoir is a Category 3 wetland, using the Ohio EPA Rapid Assessment Method. Category 3 wetlands are the highest quality category of wetland in Ohio and possess superior habitat, hydrological, or recreational functions. In addition, an approximate 1.2-acre wetland within the northwest portion of Griggs is a Category 2 or 3 wetland.

The wetlands receive a majority of their water from Griggs Reservoir and the Scioto River, in addition to streams and drainage from the surrounding landscape. These wetlands filter water

before it enters Griggs Reservoir, an important source of drinking water for Columbus. Griggs provides habitat and feeding opportunities for several birds and the wetlands, specifically, provide additional important habitat for these birds. In addition, the wetlands provide refuge and breeding areas for fish from Griggs Reservoir, as well as breeding pools for several amphibians. See "Griggs Streams & Wetlands" map.

3.2.3 Reservoir

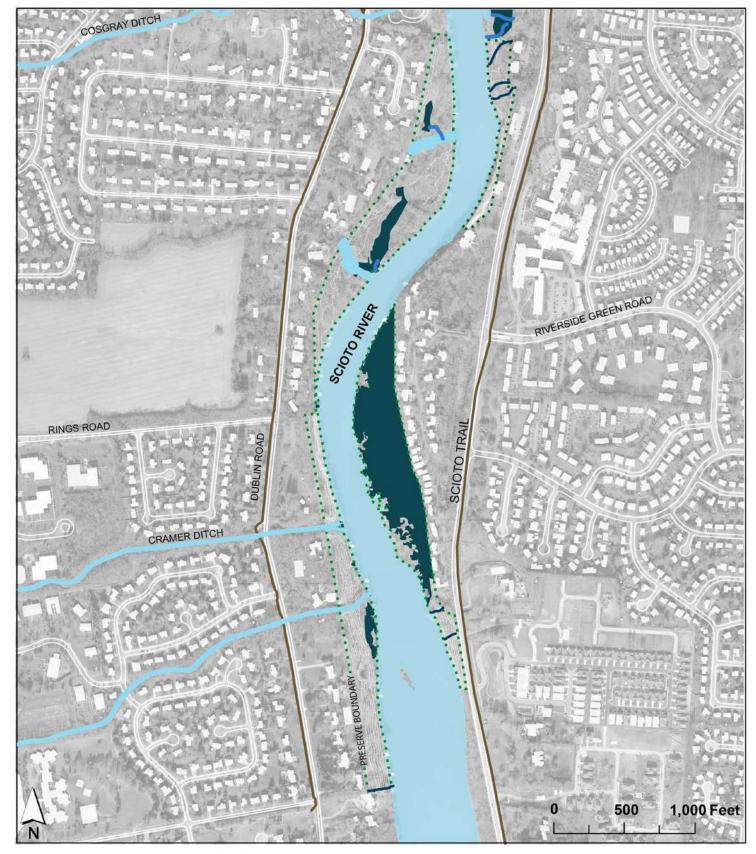
The preserve contains a portion of the Griggs Reservoir normal pool, the water



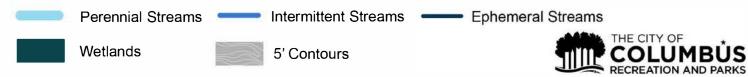
Forested wetland along the eastern side of Griggs

level that is present throughout a majority of the year. During high pool level and flooding events, Griggs Reservoir floods the preserve areas. Griggs Nature Preserve serves as an important flyway for many species of migratory birds traveling between Canada and South America.



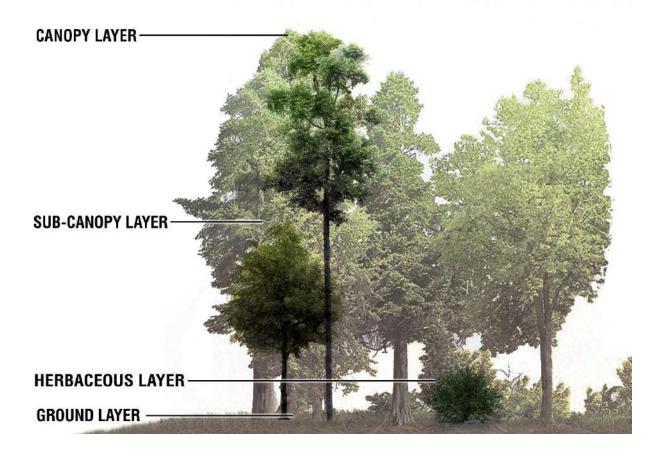


Griggs Streams & Wetlands



3.3 Vegetation and Habitat

Commonly observed native tree species include hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) and black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) within the upland forest areas, while sycamore, silver maple, and cottonwood dominate the forested wetland areas.



The sub-canopy is entirely dominated by the invasive honeysuckle within the upland forest area. Silky dogwood and tree saplings dominate the forested wetland areas.

The herbaceous layer within the upland forest is minimal and is dominated by Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*).

See "Griggs Habitat Types & Invasive Species" map that illustrates the general vegetation coverage within Griggs. The following habitat types were identified:

- 1. Upland Forest
- 2. Reservoir
- 3. Forested Wetland
- 4. Grassland/Herbaceous
- 5. Maintained Lawn

The "Griggs Reservoir Known Species List (2022)" is included as an attachment.





Griggs Habitat Types & Invasive Species

(1.50 acres)

(1.43 acres)





3.3.1 Upland Forest

Griggs consists of 25-acres of upland forest, which includes portions of mature forest dominated by large diameter trees. This forest serves as an important riparian area, forested area surrounding streams, for numerous headwater streams, wetland, Griggs Reservoir. The forest serves as habitat for a number of plant and animal species, including potential habitat for protected bat species. Bats utilize forests during the summer to roost and often prefer to forage along riparian stream corridors that Griggs provides.





Upland Forest

Upland Forest

3.3.2 Reservoir

Griggs includes 1.5-acres of Griggs Reservoir. Griggs Reservoir is an important water source and provides drinking water for Columbus.



Reservoir

3.3.3 Forested Wetland

Griggs includes forested wetland (see section 3.2.2 for details). Wetlands provide several important services, including, the filtration of water to improve downstream water quality,



flood retention, habitat for several wildlife, including critical breeding habitat for amphibians, and carbon storage. The forested wetland area within Griggs is high quality (Category 3).





Forested Wetland

Forested Wetland

3.3.4 Grassland/Herbaceous

Griggs includes 1.4-acres of grassland/herbaceous habitat in a residential area along the western side of the preserve. This habitat is dominated by deer tongue grass (*Dichanthelium clandestinum*), dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*), wingstem (*Verbesina alternifolia*), and Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*). This area provides important pollinator habitat and suitable habitat for the monarch butterfly.



Grassland/Herbaceous

3.3.5 Maintained Lawn

Griggs includes 1-acre of mowed area around the residential areas along the western side of the preserve.





Maintained Lawn

3.3.6 Invasive Vegetation

More than 2.5-acres of area within upland forest is dominated by honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp*).

This area includes the northern and southern portion of the eastern side of Griggs. In addition, sporadic coverage of honeysuckle is present throughout the western portion. Honeysuckle grows quickly and out-competes native understory plants and shades the forest floor, preventing a native and diverse herbaceous layer. The berries serve as a food source for native birds, but provide less nutritional content than berries from native shrubs. Based on the extent of coverage, and the multiple negative impacts from honeysuckle, removal of this invasive species is a priority.



Dense coverage of honeysuckle within the upland forest subcanopy.

3.4 Listed/Protected Plant and Wildlife Species

Plant and wildlife species data below were requested from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) data and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Natural Heritage Data (NHD). Griggs is within the potential habitat ranges of the following endangered, threatened, or species of concern plants and/or wildlife. Therefore, these species may be found within the Nature Preserve.

Plants

No USFWS federally listed plant species ranges or records are known to exist within Griggs.

The following ODNR state listed plant species records exists within the northeastern portion of Griggs:



• **arborvitae** (*Thuja occidentalis*) is a potentially state threatened evergreen shrub. This species typically grows in wet woods, growing to a medium height, and has been widely cultivated as an ornamental species.

The following records or ranges for wildlife were identified within Griggs Reservoir:

Mammals

The Federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalist*) and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) are found in Ohio. These bats face extinction due to the range-wide impacts of white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease affecting cave-dwelling bats across the continent.

These species hibernate, therefore are not typically found in trees in the winter. However, when not in hibernation, they use the trees within forests for foraging, roosting, and raising their young in the summer, and often return to the same forests. The mature forest in Griggs provides suitable habitat for the bats.

Mussels

The federally endangered rayed bean (Villosa fabalis) is a small freshwater mussel that reside in shallow rivers, often near riffles and aquatic vegetation. The species will bury itself in clean gravel or sand. Mussels provide an important water quality surface but continuously filtering water. Reaches of the Scioto River may still provide suitable habitat for this species, although dams along the river have altered a majority of available habitat.



Giant floater (*Pyganodon grandis*) freshwater mussel shell observed along the banks of the reservoir.

Insects

The monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is a candidate for being considered Federally Threatened or Endangered (due to the significant decline in their numbers). Monarchs seek milkweed plants for food and laying eggs as part of their annual migration from as far north as Canada down to central Mexico. Wildflowers present in Griggs provide suitable food sources for monarch butterflies.

3.5 Wildlife

With its wide range of habitat types, Griggs supports healthy and diverse populations of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. According to National Audubon Society, the Scioto River is an important area for birds and is within a migratory bird route. A species list of wildlife documented in Griggs is attached.



4. RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2022, Columbus City Code was amended by enacting Section 919.27 - Nature Preserve Code, to designate portions of parks as nature preserves for the benefit of present and future residents of the City of Columbus. The purpose of the Nature Preserve Code is to identify, protect, and manage Nature Preserves. The management of Nature Preserves includes ensuring it is maintained in its existing, near-natural, or restored state. In order to continue to benefit the residents of Columbus and follow Nature Preserve Code, the following actions are recommended.

4.1 Protection

4.1.1 Maintain Pristine, Native Habitat

Griggs Nature Preserve contains a high-quality forested wetland, mature upland forest, several streams, grassland/herbaceous habitat, and Griggs Reservoir. These resources provide important ecological functions, such as water quality filtration and breeding and foraging habitat. Continued protection of the natural resources within Griggs is vital, to ensure these resources remain for future generations. Visitor access is only possible from the reservoir and access via land should not be attempted, as the nature preserve is



North American beaver activity adjacent to the reservoir.

surrounded by private property. It is recommended that park users have a "leave no trace" mentality when visiting Griggs.

It is important to understand the natural resources within Griggs, in order to prioritize management activities. One consideration would be to update the listing of observed species of flora and fauna within Griggs once every five years. This update should include a thorough survey of species through multiple seasonal field visits. Documenting the specific location of sensitive species and habitat in GIS could be used to protect the most rare or sensitive resources.

4.1.2 Plant Management

All native plants are to be left alone in their original state. If trees naturally fall, they are to remain where they land to provide habitat for wildlife. If trees are designated as a severe risk, trees should be cut to the remainder of a 20-to-30-foot stump of standing dead habitat.

4.1.3 Invasive Species Removal

The invasive honeysuckle is dominant in areas of Griggs. Although eradication of invasive species is desirable to preserve the native biological diversity, extensive time and effort, as well as costs, are involved with this goal.



If addressing the invasive species at Griggs is pursued, removal of honeysuckle should be the first priority. This is due to the extensive coverage of honeysuckle and the multiple negative impacts it has on native resources. Native herbaceous plants should be planted in areas where heavily dominated invasive species areas have been cleared.

The application of pesticide should follow the standards described in the CRPD Integrated Pest Management Policy Statement. In some cases, planting of native species may be required once invasive plants are removed.

4.2 Conservation

4.2.1 Visitor Management

To provide a safe and enjoyable visitor experience while protecting Griggs' natural resources, CRPD will use strategies to achieve resource protection. These practices may include visitors having minimal impact on the natural area by respecting plant and wildlife, disposing of waste properly, and being considerate of others.

4.2.2 Community Involvement

Engage neighbors and community members around Griggs through volunteer event signs posted in Griggs and posted on social media. Events may include education on encroachment, invasive species removal, litter pick-up events, plantings, and others.

4.3 Enhancement

4.3.1 Signage

Install boundary markers along the preserve is recommended to aid in limiting encroachments. Currently, Griggs can only be publicly accessed from the water.





Griggs Nature Preserve Known Species List (2022)		
F	Plants	
Scientific Name	Common Name	
Acer negundo	Box Elder	
Acer saccharinum	Silver Maple	
Acer saccharum	Sugar Maple	
Alliaria petiolata	Garlic Mustard	
Allium canadense	Wild Garlic	
$Allium\ tricoccum$	Ramp	
$Amphicar paea\ bracteat a$	American Hog-peanut	
$A pocynum\ cannabinum$	Dogbane	
Aquilegia canadensis	Eastern Red Columbine	
Arabis laevigata	Smooth Rockcress	
Arabis procurrens	Spreading Rockcress	
Arctium minus	Lesser Burdock	
Asarum canadense	Canada Wild Ginger	
Bromus inermis Leyss.	Smooth Brome	
Camassia scilloides	Wild Hyacinth	
Carex amphibola	Creek Sedge	
Carex grayi	Gray's Sedge	
Carex lurida	Shallow Sedge	
Celtis occidentalis	Common Hackberry	
Cercis canadensis	Eastern Redbud	
Claytonia virginica	Spring Beauty	
Cornus amomum	Silky Dogwood	
Dennstaedtia punctilobula	Hay-scented Fern	
Deparia acrostichoides	Silvery Glade Fern	
Dicentra cucullaria	Dutchman's Breeches	
Dichanthelium clandestinum	Deertongue	
Fraxinus americana	White Ash	
Fraxinus pennsylvanica	Green Ash	
Fraxinus quadragulata	Blue Ash	
Geum canadense	White Avens	
Geum vernum	Spring Avens	
Gleditsia triacanthos	Honey Locust	
Hibiscus moscheutos	Swamp Rose-mallow	
Hydrophyllum virginianum	Virginia Waterleaf	
Impatiens capensis	Common Jewelweed	
Juglans nigra	Black Walnut	
Lobelia siphilitica	Great Blue Lobelia	
Lonicera maackii	Amur Honeysuckle	

Griggs Nature Preserve Known Species List (2022)		
	Plants	
Scientific Name	Common Name	
Lonicera morrowii	Morrow's Honeysuckle	
Lonicera reticulata	Grape Honeysuckle	
$Lonicera\ tatarica$	Tatarian Honeysuckle	
Lysimachia nummularia	Creeping Jenny	
Maclura pomifera	Osage Orange	
Mentha arvensis	Corn Mint	
Mimulus ringens	Allegheny Monkeyflower	
Myosotis scorpioides	Water Forget-Me-Not	
Napaea dioica	Glade Mallow	
Onoclea sensibilis	Sensitive Fern	
Parthenocissus quinquefolia	Virginia Creeper	
Persicaria maculosa	Lady's Thumb	
Physostegia virginiana	Obedient Plant	
Platanus occidentalis	American Sycamore	
Populus deltoides	Eastern Cottonwood	
Prunella vulgaris	Common Self-heal	
Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin Oak	
Rahamnus cathartica	European Buckthorn	
Ranunculus recurvatus	Blisterwort	
Ribes cynobati	Prickly Gooseberry	
Robinia pseudoacacia	Black Locust	
Rudbecka laciniata	Tall Coneflower	
Rumex crispus	Curly Dock	
Sagittaria latifolia	Broadleaf Arrowhead	
Salix nigra	Black Willow	
Sanguinaria candensis	Bloodroot	
Saururus cernuus	Lizard's Tail	
Scutellaria lateriflora	Side-flowering Skullcap	
Solanum dulcamara	Bittersweet Nightshade	
Solidago canadensis	Canada Goldenrod	
Solidago flexicaulus	Broadleaf Goldenrod	
Solidago gigantea	Giant Goldenrod	
Sparganium americanum	American Bur-reed	
Staphylea trifolia	American Bladdernut	
Taxodium distichum	Bald Cypress	
Thuja occidentalis	Arborvitae	
Tilia americana	American Basswood	
Toxicodendron radicans	Poison Ivy	

Griggs Nature Preserve Known Species List (2022)				
Plants				
Scientific Name	Common Name			
Trillium nivale	Snow Trillium			
Typha angustifolia L.	Narrowleaf Cattail			
Ulmus americana	American Elm			
Ulmus rubra	Slippery Elm			
Ulmus thomasii	Rock Elm			
Verbesina alternifolia	Wingstem			
Viola sororia	Woolly Blue Violet			
Vitis riparia	Riverbank Grape			

Griggs Nature Preserve Known Species List (2022)			
Birds			
Scientific Name	Common Name		
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard		
Ardea alba	Common Egret		
Ardea herodias	Great Blue Heron		
Cardinalis cardinalis	Northern Cardinal		
Cyanocitta cristata	Blue Jay		
Dumetella carolinensis	Gray Catbird		
Haemorhous mexicanus	House Finch		
Molothrus ater	Brown-headed Cowbird		
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow		
Phalacrocorax auritus	Double-crested Cormorant		
Picoides pubescens	Downy Woodpecker		
Piranga olivacea	Scarlet Tanager		
Polioptila caerulea	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		
Quiscalus quiscula	Common Grackle		
Spinus tristis	American Goldfinch		
Stelgidopteryx serripennis	Northern Rough-winged Swallow		
Tachycineta bicolor	Tree Swallow		
Thryothorus ludovicianus	Carolina Wren		
Troglodytes aedon	House Wren		
Turdus migratorius	American Robin		

Griggs Nature Preserve Known Species List (2022)			
Mammals			
Scientific Name	Common Name		
Castor canadensis	North American Beaver		
Odocoileus virginianus	White-tailed Deer		

Griggs Nature Preserve Known Species List (2022)		
Reptiles		
Scientific Name	Common Name	
Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis	Eastern Garter Snake	