



STATE OF TENNESSEE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

Division of Natural Areas  
Natural Heritage Program  
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312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243  
Phone 615/532-0431 Fax 615/532-0046

November 1, 2022

Warren Douglas  
Reelfoot Lake State Park  
2595 Hwy 21E  
Tiptonville, TN 38079

Subject: Reelfoot Lake Boat Access Sediment Removal/Dredging  
Pontoon Shed Ramp: (36.36252°, -89.43167°)  
Campground Ramp: (36.35538° -89.39661°)  
Kirby Pocket: (36.39633°, -89.34037°)  
Obion County and Lake County, TN  
Rare Species Database Review

Dear Ms. Douglas:

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 October 2022 requesting a rare species database review for the proposed sediment removal in three boat access areas in Reelfoot Lake State Park. Each project area will be accessed from a gravel road or paved drive.

Per your submittal, the project activities are as follows:

*Pontoon ditch, remove sediment from center of channel, to restore to original depth, no plants or cypress knees are in the area to be touched*

*Campground ramp, remove sediment inside still harbor which is mostly dry, no plants or cypress knees will be harmed.*

*Kirby pocket, expand ramp access, remove sediment around southeast side of existing ramp to expand ramp.*

*Sediment to be transported to upland location from all three projects.*

We have reviewed the state's natural heritage database with regard to the project boundaries, and we find that the following rare species have been observed previously within one mile of the project area:

Type	Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	St. Rank	Fed. Prot.	St. Prot.	Habitat
Vascular Plant	<i>Elodea nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's Waterweed	G5	S2	--	S	Aquatic; Streams and Ponds
Vascular Plant	<i>Hottonia inflata</i>	Featherfoil	G4	S2	--	S	Wet Sloughs and Ditches
Vascular Plant	<i>Iris fulva</i>	Copper Iris	G5	S2	--	T	Bottomlands
Vascular Plant	<i>Neobeckia aquatica</i>	Lake Cress	G4?	S2	--	S	Gum Or Cypress Swamps
Vascular Plant	<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i>	Ovate-leaved Arrowhead	G5	S2S3	--	S	Swamps, Emergent
Invertebrate Animal	<i>Lampsilis siliquoidea</i>	Fatmucket	G5	S2	--	Rare, Not State Listed	Slackwater with mud subst; Wolf R (Miss R trib); west TN; may occur at Reelfoot Lk; also rept Drakes Ck (Cumb R), Sumner Co.
Vertebrate Animal	<i>Atractosteus spatula</i>	Alligator Gar	G3G4	S1	--	D	Sluggish pools of large rivers, oxbows, swamps, and backwaters; west Tennessee.
Vertebrate Animal	<i>Fundulus chrysotus</i>	Golden Topminnow	G5	S1S2	--	D	Swamps, backwaters, and pools of ditches and slow-moving creeks; Reelfoot Lake & imm. vicinity.
Vertebrate Animal	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern	G4G5	S2B	--	D	Marshes with scattered bushes or other woody growth; readily uses artificial wetland habitats.
Vertebrate Animal	<i>Nerodia cyclopion</i>	Mississippi Green Watersnake	G5	S2	--	D	Marshes, swamps, bayous, shallow lakes and ponds, wet prairies, oxbows and floodplain sloughs; far west Tennessee.
Vertebrate Animal	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Bewick's Wren	G5	S1	--	D	Brushy areas, thickets and scrub in open country, open and riparian woodland.

Within four miles of the project area the following additional rare species have been reported:

Type	Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	St. Rank	Fed. Prot.	St. Prot.	Habitat
Vascular Plant	<i>Carex comosa</i>	Bristly Sedge	G5	S2	--	T	Swamps
Vascular Plant	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Choke Cherry	G5	S1	--	S	Moist Coves and Slopes
Vascular Plant	<i>Ranunculus flabellaris</i>	Yellow Water-crowfoot	G5	S2	--	T	Ponds And Marshes

Type	Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	St. Rank	Fed. Prot.	St. Prot.	Habitat
Invertebrate Animal	<i>Webbhelix multilineata</i>	Striped Whitelip	G5	S2	--	Rare, Not State Listed	Low wet habitats, marshes, floodplains, meadows; lake margins; under leaf litter or drift; Mississippi River floodplain.
Vertebrate Animal	<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	Swainson's Warbler	G4	S3	--	D	Mature, rich, damp, deciduous floodplain and swamp forests.
Vertebrate Animal	<i>Neotoma floridana illinoensis</i>	Eastern Woodrat	G5T5	S3	--	D	Forested areas, caves & outcrops; west Tennessee generally.
Vertebrate Animal	<i>Setophaga cerulea</i>	Cerulean Warbler	G4	S3B	--	D	Mature deciduous forest, particularly in floodplains or mesic conditions.
Animal Assemblage	Rookery	Heron Rookery	G5	SNR	--	Rare, Not State Listed	

The Division of Natural Areas - Natural Heritage Program has reviewed the location of the proposed project workspace with respect to rare plant species. Please note that *Hottonia inflata*, *Iris fulva*, *Neobeckia aquatica*, and *Sagittaria platyphylla* have all been observed in the immediate vicinity of the Pontoon Shed Ramp project area and that suitable habitat for these species is likely present in the area to be disturbed by the project. To facilitate work around these records in the absence of current surveys, we are providing Park Manager Alisha O'Dell with a map identifying the locations of these records (to be used in conjunction with the habitat associated with these species in the tables above) to assist her with ensuring the planned work avoids any present occurrences of these species at the Pontoon Shed Ramp in the course of work and access. To the extent that Reelfoot Lake State Park Staff use this map resource and their familiarity with these species to avoid impacting them in the course of this work, we do not anticipate any impacts to occurrences of rare, threatened, or endangered plant species from this project.

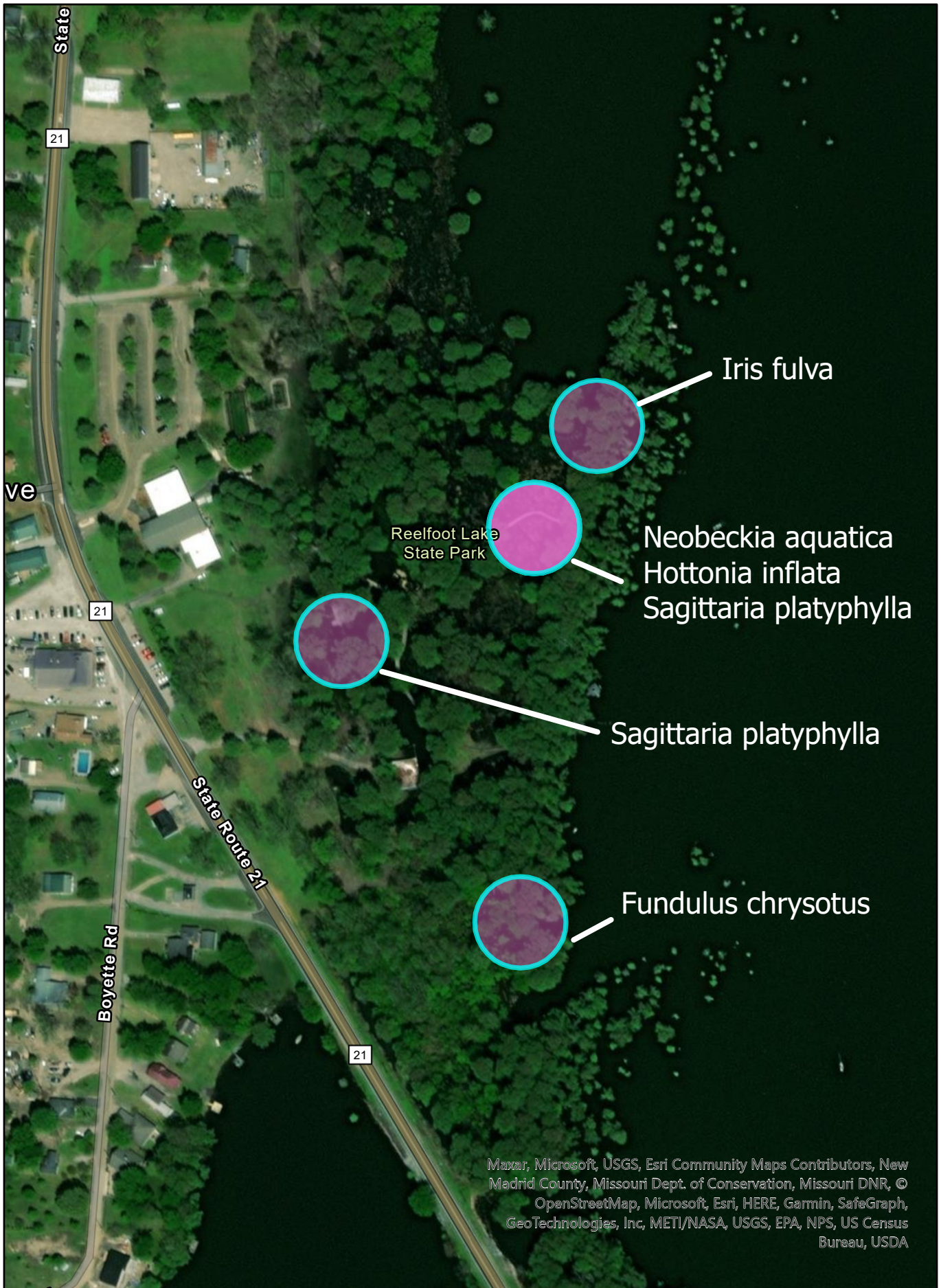
We ask that you coordinate this project with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to ensure that legal requirements for protection of state listed rare animals are addressed. Please ensure that best management practices to address erosion and sediment are implemented and maintained during construction activities. Note that the [General Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit](#) states that “use of monofilament-type erosion control netting or blanket is prohibited in the stream channel, stream banks, or any disturbed riparian areas within 30 feet of top of bank.” Where necessary and feasible, we encourage use of biodegradable netting under the CGP (Construction General Stormwater Permit) as well.

Thank you for considering Tennessee’s rare species throughout the planning of this project. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 615-532-4799 or [dillon.blankenship@tn.gov](mailto:dillon.blankenship@tn.gov).

Sincerely,

*Dillon*

Dillon Blankenship | Environmental Review Coordinator  
 Tennessee Natural Heritage Program



Iris fulva

Neobeckia aquatica  
Hottonia inflata  
Sagittaria platyphylla

Sagittaria platyphylla

Fundulus chrysotus

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