

## ABOUT THE MVPP

The Michigan Vernal Pools Partnership (MVPP) is a public/private partnership of federal, state, and local governmental agencies, industry representatives, businesses, educators, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations. Led by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, and the Michigan Nature Association, the MVPP's goals include:

- **Conservation** of vernal pools through local and state measures
- **Research & Mapping** to understand the status, distribution and ecology of vernal pools
- **Education & Outreach** to improve awareness, understanding and engagement
- **Collaboration & Coordination** to leverage the experience, expertise and resources of partners
- **Community Science** through the Vernal Pool Patrol

Open to groups, organizations, and individuals that wish to take an active role in the conservation of vernal pools!

For a complete list of partners, visit [mivernalpools.com](http://mivernalpools.com)



Michigan  
Vernal Pools  
Partnership

Seasonally Flooded Vernal Pool  
Can be observed starting in early spring



Dry Vernal Pool  
Water recedes and dries in the summer/fall



## CONTACT US



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# MICHIGAN VERNAL POOLS PARTNERSHIP

[MIVERNALPOOLS.COM](http://MIVERNALPOOLS.COM)



The Michigan Vernal Pools Partnership's mission is to increase awareness, understanding, and protection of vernal pools.

Find out how you can help these diverse and amazing ecosystems through the partnership!



Spotted Salamander by Becky Norris



**Vernal pools are essential for maintaining healthy and resilient ecosystems. They provide...**

**Critical breeding habitat** for a variety of amphibians and invertebrates including these fascinating species that depend on vernal pools for survival:

- Fairy shrimp
- Wood frogs
- Spotted salamanders
- Blue-spotted salamander

**Important ecosystem services** including:

- Nutrient cycling
- Carbon storage
- Flood & erosion control
- Recharging the groundwater table

**Habitat for potentially over 500 species** of wildlife in Michigan, including rare and/or declining species such as:

- Blanding's and spotted turtles
- Copperbelly water snakes
- Red-shouldered hawks

**But vernal pools are at risk due to...**

- Disturbance, alteration and destruction because of their small size and seasonal nature
- Limited protection from state or federal wetland regulations
- Difficulty finding them on the landscape
- Limited information on the status, ecology, and distribution of vernal pools in Michigan.

**The Michigan Vernal Pools Partnership (MVPP) was established in 2016 to address these issues through conservation, research & mapping, and outreach & education.**



## What is a vernal pool?

Vernal pools are temporarily-flooded wetlands with unique attributes that provide a host of critical ecological benefits. In Michigan, they typically occur in small, shallow depressions in forest ecosystems.

Most vernal pools will fill up with water each spring, hold water for at least two months, and dry up entirely or almost entirely during the summer or fall. Because they dry up, vernal pools cannot support fish populations. Without the presence of fish predators, vernal pools provide essential habitat for many different animals and plants.

## JOIN THE MVPP

Your organization, agency or business can become an MVPP member or you can participate as an individual. If you are interested in supporting conservation of vernal pools, contact [mvpp@michigannature.org](mailto:mvpp@michigannature.org) for more information!



Fairy Shrimp by Leo Kenney

## BECOME A VERNAL POOL PATROLLER

The Vernal Pool Patrol is the community (citizen) science arm of the MVPP. The program is coordinated by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory and local community partners. Data collected by volunteers and students contribute to a statewide effort that enhances knowledge and supports conservation of vernal pools.

Visit [vernal-pool-patrol-mnfi.hub.arcgis.com](https://vernal-pool-patrol-mnfi.hub.arcgis.com) to learn more!



Photo by Lauren Ross

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