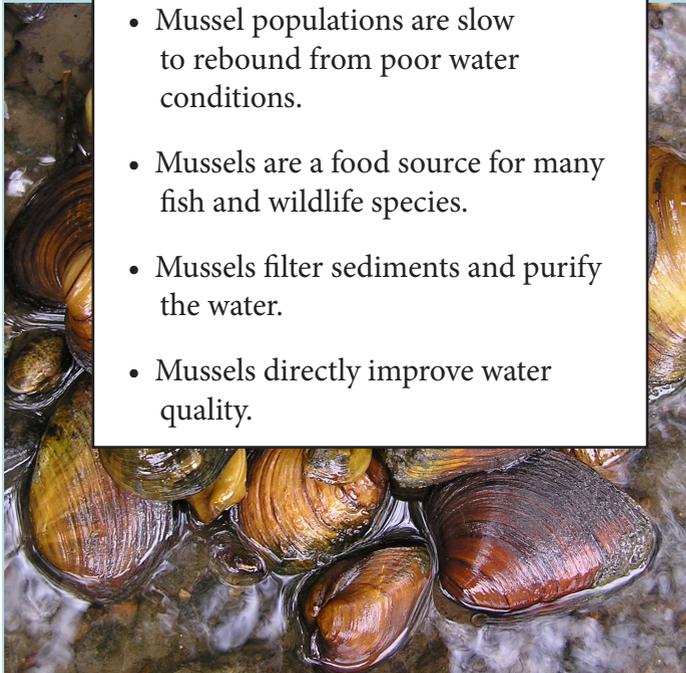


DID YOU KNOW?



The Tippecanoe River is home to one of the most diverse populations of freshwater mussels in the United States!

- There are 6 federally listed species of freshwater mussels in the Tippecanoe River
- Mussel populations are slow to rebound from poor water conditions.
- Mussels are a food source for many fish and wildlife species.
- Mussels filter sediments and purify the water.
- Mussels directly improve water quality.



Healthy Mussels



Healthy River

TAKE THE MIGHTY MUSSEL PLEDGE!

Take the pledge at HeartoftheTippy.org/pledge to improve water quality and protect freshwater mussels.

During my time in and around the Tippecanoe River, I pledge to protect mussels by:



Leaving all mussels in the water where I find them.



Carrying my canoe/kayak through shallow water.



Collecting and properly disposing of all my trash.



Checking the gills of fish I catch for glochidia and releasing fish with glochidia.

Visit HeartoftheTippy.org/pledge

GOING FISHING?



Learn what YOU can do to protect mussels and keep the Tippecanoe River healthy!

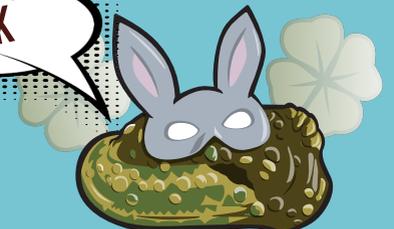


By protecting freshwater mussels, you are protecting the Heart of the Tippy, promoting good water quality, and conserving healthy fish and wildlife populations in the Tippecanoe River.



Heart of the Tippy
HeartoftheTippy.org

BABIES GO BACK



CASTING YOUR LINE? PROTECTING MUSSELS IS EASY!

Mussels have an amazing and unusual life cycle that includes fish as hosts. Glochidia (or mussel larvae) attach themselves to the gills of fish, where they develop into juvenile mussels before releasing to imbed in the stream or river bottom. This process does no harm to the host fish.



Smallmouth bass gills inoculated with glochidia (number of glochidia present is more than you would normally find).



Logperch with glochidia on gills (number of glochidia is more representative of what you will find).

Be sure to check the gills of the fish you plan to keep. To do this, use your finger to gently pull the gill cover back, exposing the gills as in the photos to the left. Glochidia will look like grains of salt.

If you see glochidia on the gills, please return the fish to the water immediately.

All photos were taken by Indiana DNR staff with appropriate permits and permission.

ENDANGERED MUSSELS IN THE TIPPECANOE RIVER



FANSHELL MUSSEL



SNUFFBOX MUSSEL



RABBITSFOOT MUSSEL



SHEEPNOSE MUSSEL



RAYED BEAN MUSSEL



CLUBSHELL MUSSEL

5 PRACTICES TO PROTECT MUSSELS



DON'T PICK ME UP
Leave ALL mussels, living, dead or empty shells in the river.



DON'T LITTER
Pick up and place all trash in proper bins.



BABIES GO BACK
Check the gills of fish from the river or lake for glochidia. (baby mussels that attach to the gills of fish but don't hurt the fish.)



FORGET THE FERTILIZER
Reduce fertilizer use and stabilize your shoreline to prevent nutrient and sediment runoff from your yard to the river.



CARRY YOUR CANOE
Carry your canoe or kayak across shallow water to protect mussels buried in the river.