The Huron Natural River District

What is a Natural Rivers District?

Much of the Huron River between Kent Lake and Barton Pond, and parts of Arms, Mill, and Davis creeks have enjoyed designation as a “Country Scenic Natural River” since 1979. This protective designation has contributed to the “up north” feel of the Huron River and provides unique access to the wild beauty of South East Michigan for anglers and paddlers alike.

The 1970 Natural River Act authorized the MDNR to develop a system of “Natural Rivers” to preserve our valuable riverine resources. On-the-ground administration of the program works through a permit process, similar to a local zoning permit. Any new development or land use activity on public or private land within 400 feet of the high-water mark (essentially within the “Natural River District” or NRD) requires a Natural Rivers permit and must meet certain development standards.

These standards help the Huron to maintain not only its natural look, but also its ecological health, leading to a collection of community benefits;

- Improved habitat for fisheries and wildlife
- Floodplain management and stream bank stabilization and erosion control
- Enhanced recreation and aesthetic enjoyment

### For Permit Approval:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Riverfront Development Standards*</th>
<th>Mainstream</th>
<th>Arms, Mill, or Davis Creeks</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Setback</td>
<td>125 ft.</td>
<td>50 ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Vegetation Strip</td>
<td>50 ft.</td>
<td>50 ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Septic Setback</td>
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*Other standards may apply

- For more information regarding the Natural Rivers Program, please visit the MDNR web site at [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/naturalrivers](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/naturalrivers).