

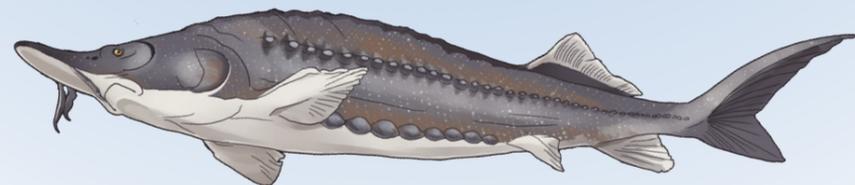
# I AM A RIVER

*Story by Michael Alan Timm  
Illustrated by Sydney Hoffman*



# I AM A RIVER

*The Kletzsch Dam Fishway  
and what it means for our  
relationship with the  
Milwaukee River*



*This story takes the  
perspective of the Milwaukee  
River over the past few  
hundred years of change.*

*If the river could speak, what  
do you think it would say?*

*Story by Michael Alan Timm  
Illustrated by Sydney Hoffman*

**MMXXIII**

**"I am  
a river."**

*The Gathering Place of the Waters  
for generations prior to 1833...*



**American Beaver**  
*Castor canadensis*

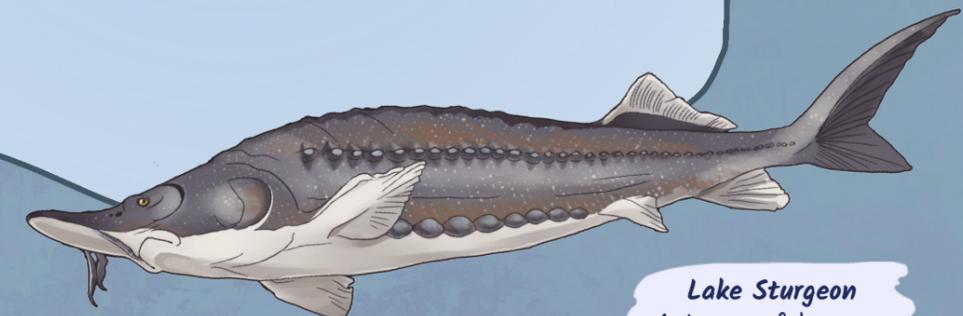


**Great Blue Heron**  
*Ardea herodias*

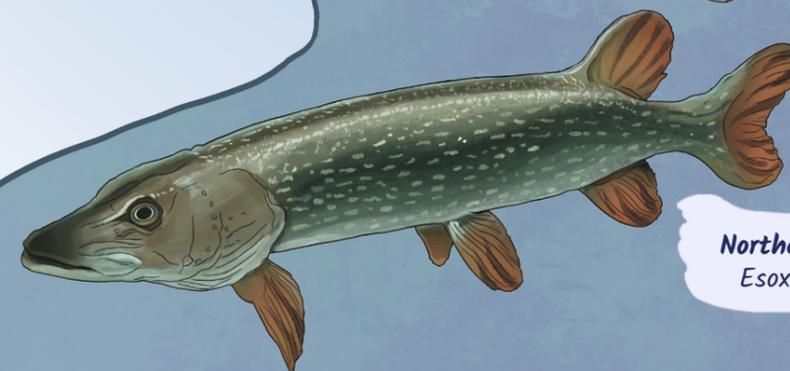


**Humans**  
*Homo sapiens*

**Wild Rice**  
*Zizania palustris*



**Lake Sturgeon**  
*Acipenser fulvescens*



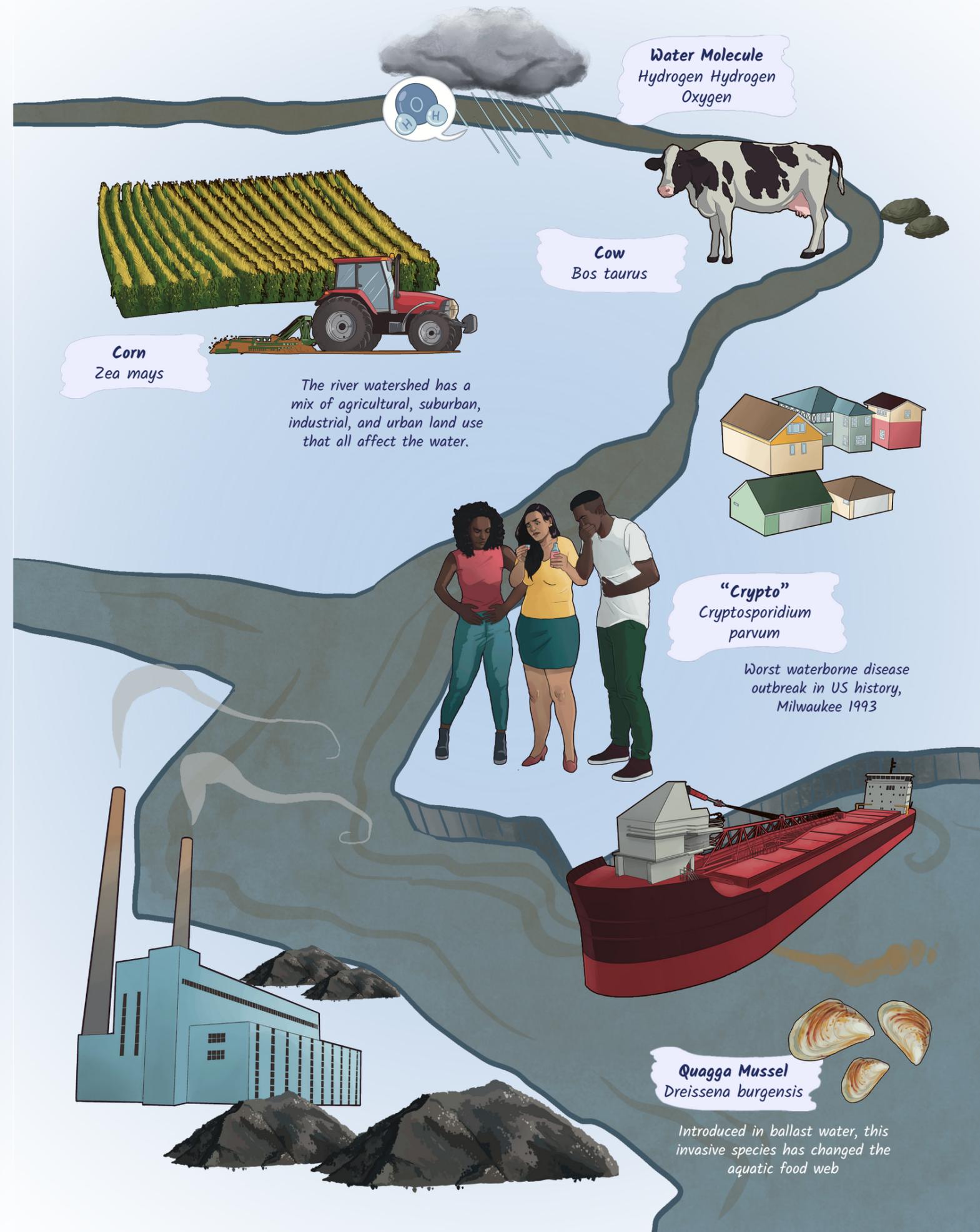
**Northern Pike**  
*Esox lucius*





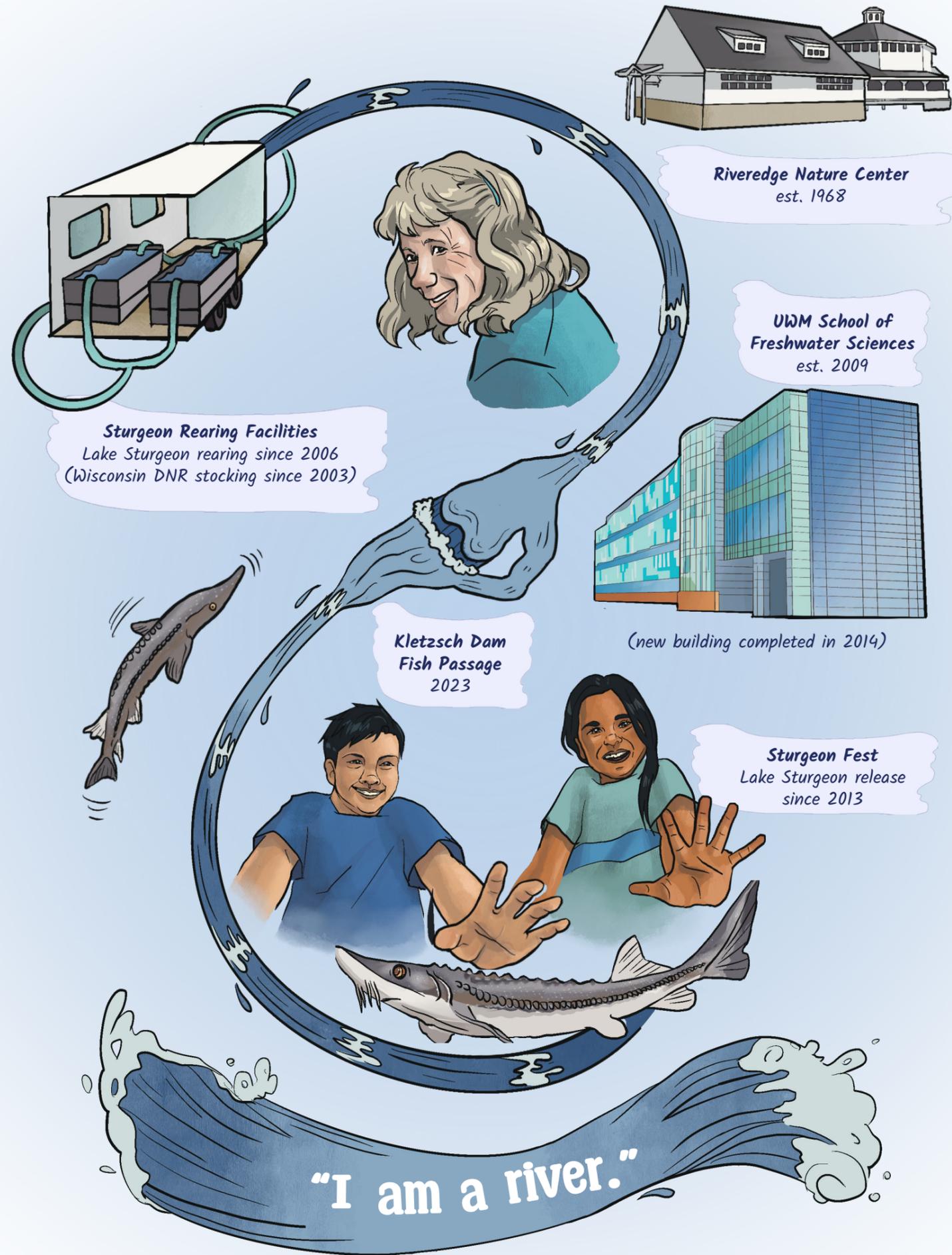
**“They almost forgot me.”**

**Milwaukee River Basin  
in the 20th Century**





**Milwaukee River Basin  
in the 21st Century**



Bridge Street Dam  
in Grafton

Mequon-Thiensville  
Dam Fishway  
Updated 2021-'22

Kletzsch Dam  
Fish Passage  
2023

**"Our relationship  
is changing..."**

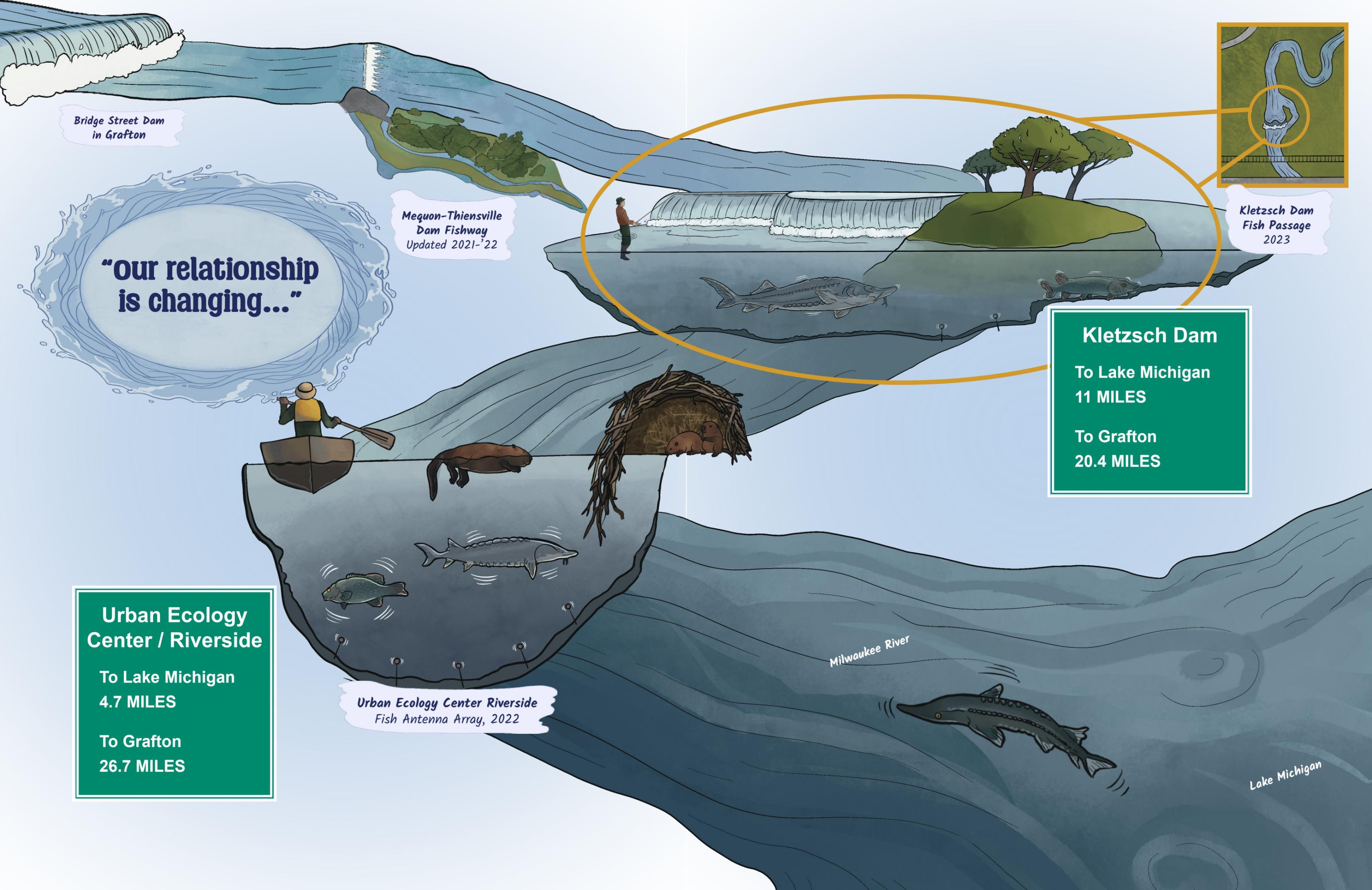
**Kletzsch Dam**  
To Lake Michigan  
11 MILES  
To Grafton  
20.4 MILES

**Urban Ecology  
Center / Riverside**  
To Lake Michigan  
4.7 MILES  
To Grafton  
26.7 MILES

Urban Ecology Center Riverside  
Fish Antenna Array, 2022

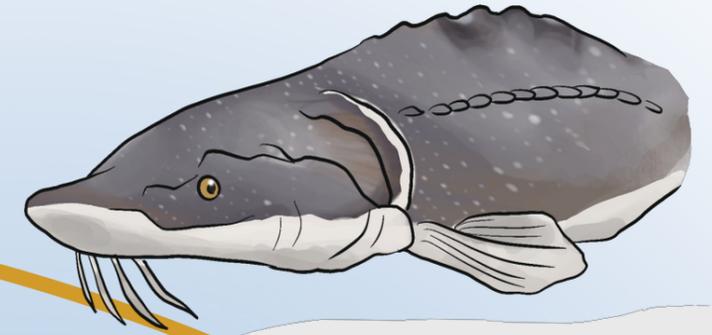
Milwaukee River

Lake Michigan

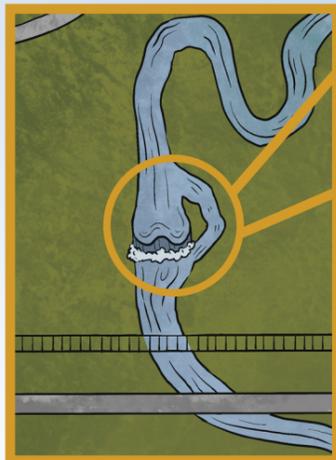




**Northern Pike**  
 The Kletzsch Fishway is designed with resting pools to help native fish like Northern Pike swim around the dam's turbulent waters to reach upstream habitat.



**Lake Sturgeon**  
 Lake sturgeon were extirpated from the Milwaukee River Basin but decades of work—including the fishway—is intended to reintroduce a naturally reproducing population.



**Kletzsch Dam Fishway**  
 bypass for fish constructed in 2023

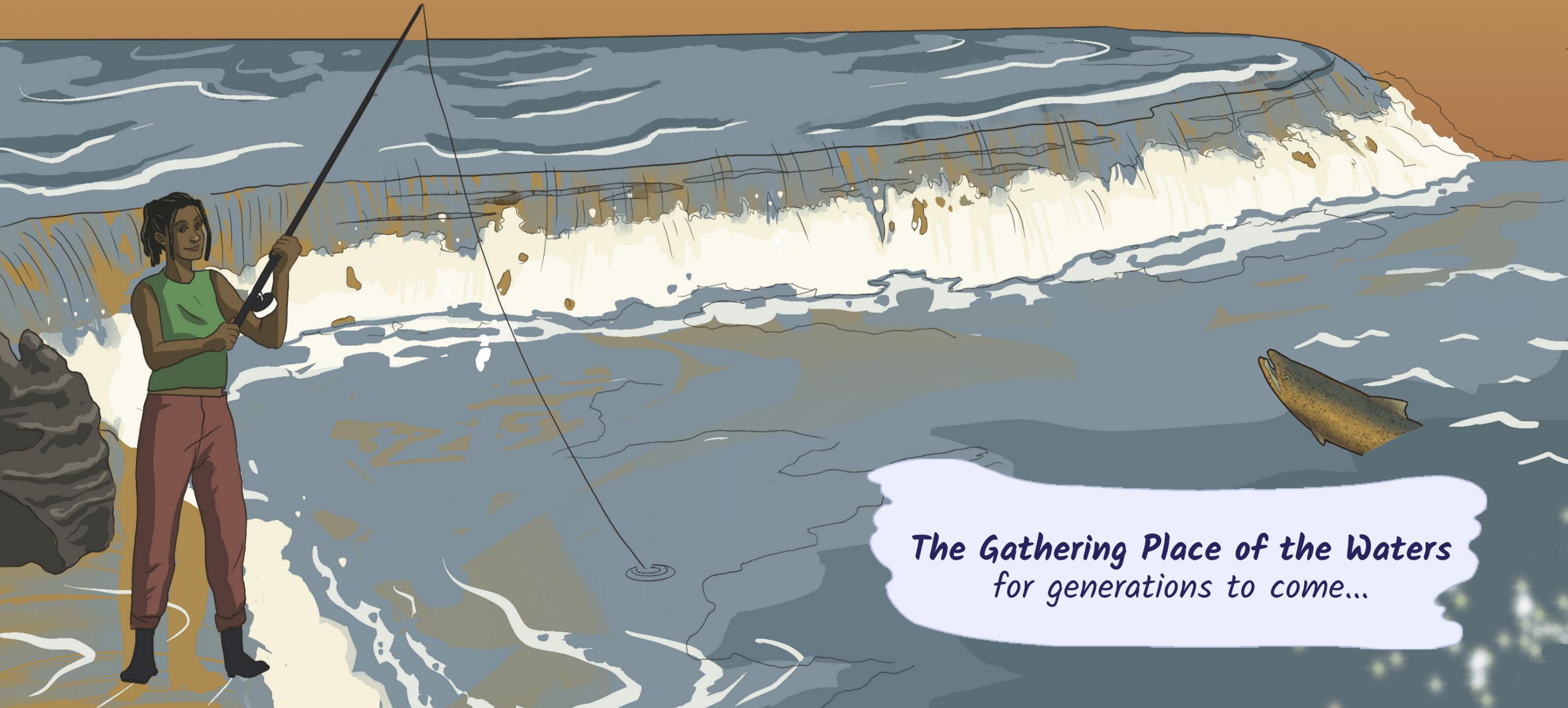
**“Aha!  
A new  
way.”**

*Kletzsch Dam Fishway  
bypass for fish constructed in 2023*



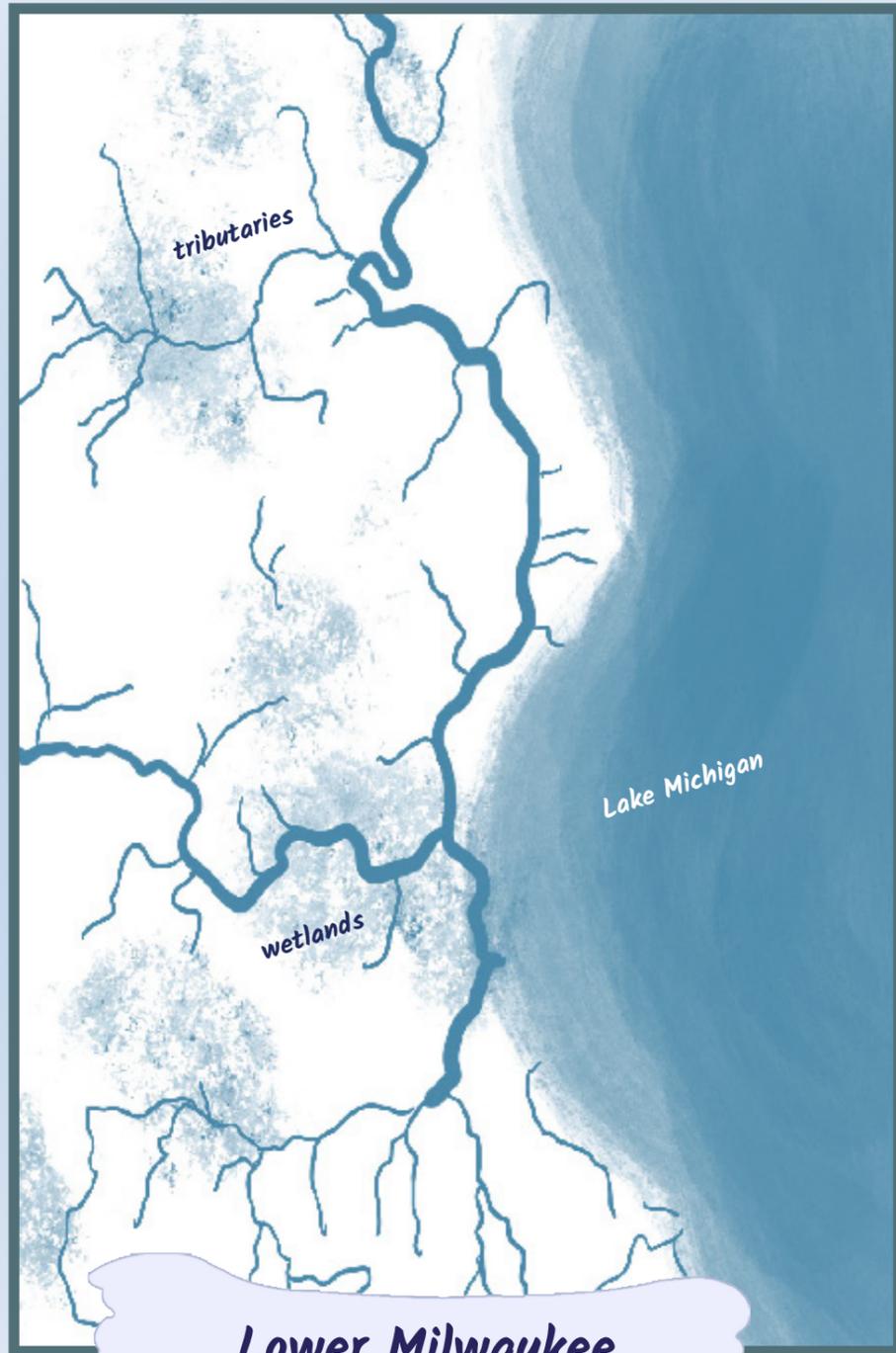
**“I am  
a river!”**

**“You are  
part of me.”**



*The Gathering Place of the Waters  
for generations to come...*

# River & Land: Map

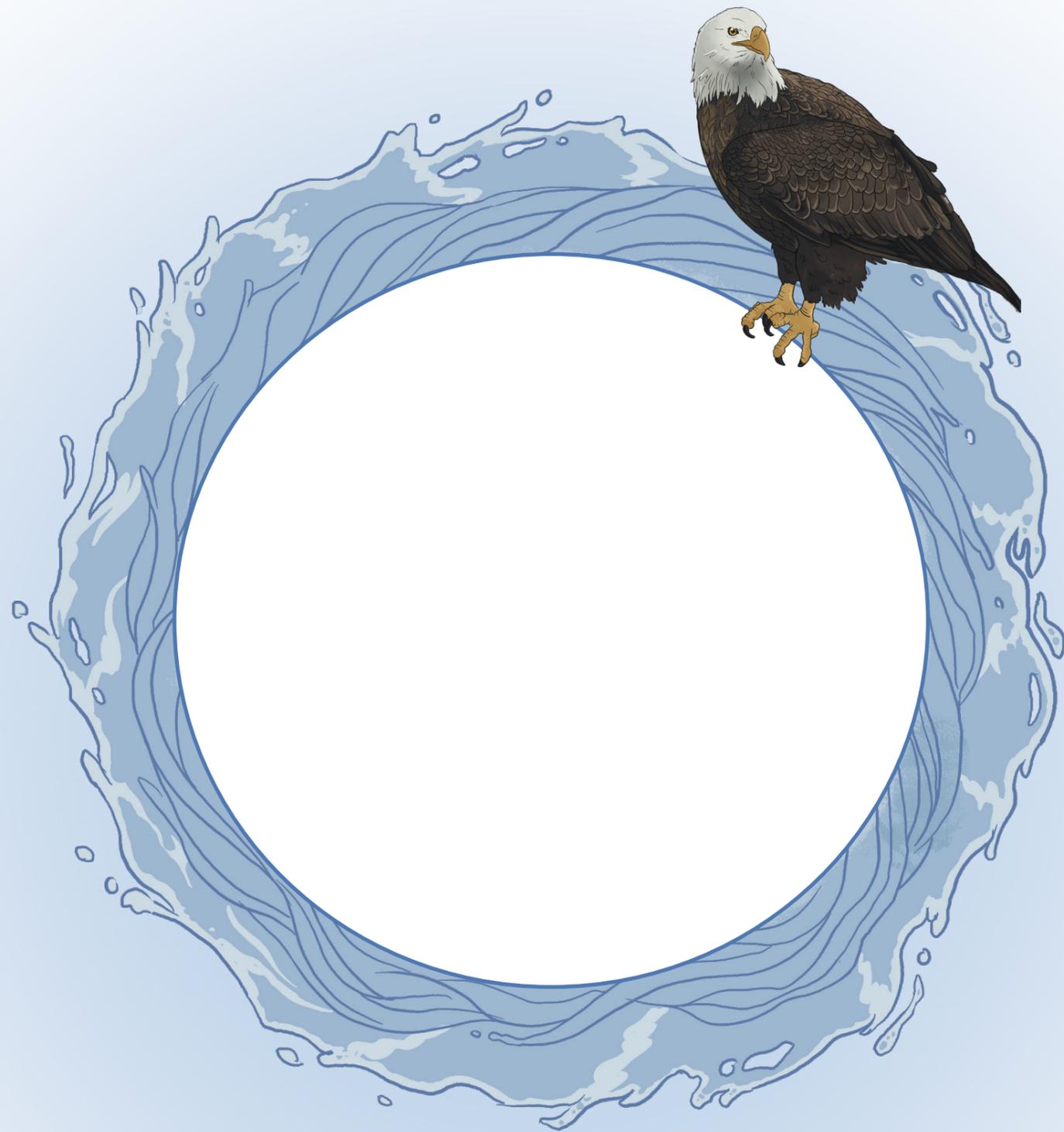


*Lower Milwaukee  
River Basin  
1700s-1800s*

# River & Land: Map

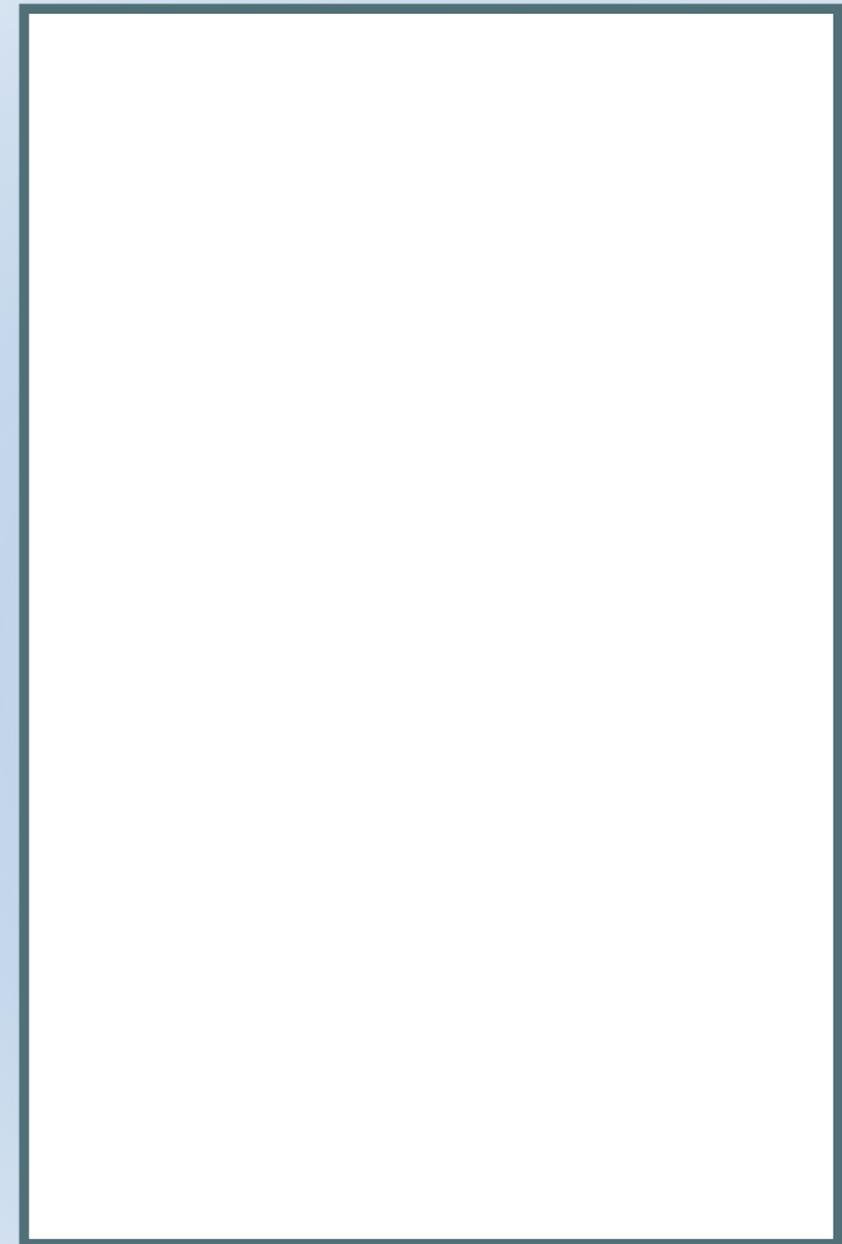


*Lower Milwaukee  
River Basin  
1900s-2000s*



*Draw the next chapter of life  
for your generation & the next...*

# River & Land Map

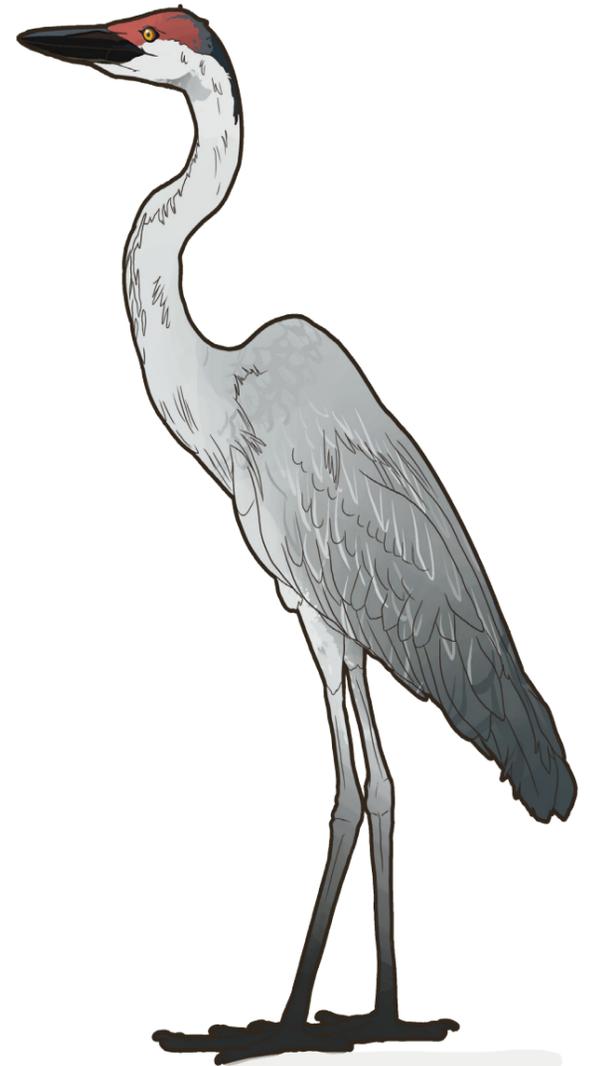


*What does our future look like?  
for your generation & the next...*

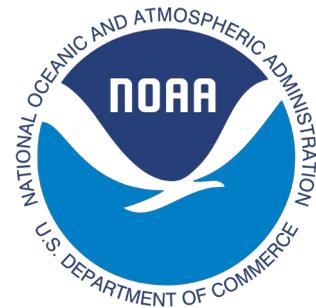
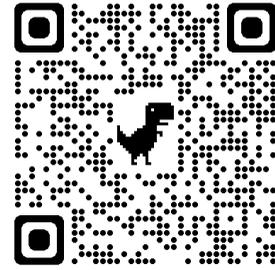
Write the next chapter of our river  
on the pages that follow...



*Sandhill Crane*  
*Antigone canadensis*



*Sandhill Crane*  
*Antigone canadensis*



*This project is funded by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under the terms and conditions of Wisconsin Coastal Management Program Grant Agreement No. AD239125-024.21.*

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*Look for the companion articles originally published online in Urban Milwaukee.*

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