

# FISH OF THE THAMES



## Warmwater Streams

These small- to medium-sized streams are up to 15 m wide and usually less than 1 m deep. The summer water temperatures often exceed 25°C. Many have been straightened to improve agricultural drainage, resulting in slow flow and silted substrates. The remaining naturally meandering channels have both fast and slow flowing sections and a variety of substrate materials including clay, silt, sand, gravel and cobble.

<b>Bluntnose Minnow</b> <i>Pimephales notatus</i> S	<b>Brook Stickleback</b> <i>Culaea inconstans</i> S	<b>Central Mudminnow</b> <i>Umbra limi</i> S
<b>Common Shiner</b> <i>Luxilus cornutus</i> M	<b>Creek Chub</b> <i>Semotilus atromaculatus</i> M	<b>Fantail Darter</b> <i>Etheostoma flabellare</i> S
<b>Fathead Minnow</b> <i>Pimephales promelas</i> S	<b>Green Sunfish</b> <i>Lepomis cyanellus</i> M	<b>Greenside Darter</b> <i>Etheostoma blennioides</i> S SAR
<b>Hornyhead Chub</b> <i>Nocomis biguttatus</i> M	<b>Johnny Darter</b> <i>Etheostoma nigrum</i> S	<b>Northern Sunfish</b> <i>Lepomis megalotis</i> M SAR
<b>Northern Brook Lamprey</b> <i>Ichthyomyzon fossor</i> M SAR	<b>Northern Redbelly Dace</b> <i>Phoxinus eos</i> S	<b>Pugnose Minnow</b> <i>Opsopoeodus emiliae</i> S SAR



## North & South Thames

These are medium-sized rivers, 15-50 m wide with an average depth of 1 m. There are slow-flowing stretches up to 4 m deep, as well as shallower, fast flowing sections. The stream bottoms are mostly boulders and cobble, with gravel, sand and silt.

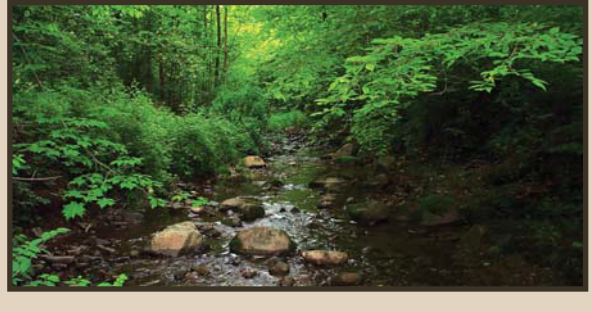
<b>Black Redhorse</b> <i>Moxostoma duquesnei</i> L SAR	<b>Central Stoneroller</b> <i>Campostoma anomalum</i> M	<b>Golden Redhorse</b> <i>Moxostoma erythrurum</i> L
<b>Mimic Shiner</b> <i>Notropis volucellus</i> S	<b>Northern Hog Sucker</b> <i>Hypentelium nigricans</i> L	<b>River Chub</b> <i>Nocomis micropogon</i> M
<b>Rock Bass</b> <i>Ambloplites rupestris</i> M	<b>Silver Shiner</b> <i>Notropis photogenis</i> S SAR	<b>Smallmouth Bass</b> <i>Micropterus dolomieu</i> L
<b>Spotfin Shiner</b> <i>Cyprinella spiloptera</i> S	<b>Stonecat</b> <i>Noturus flavus</i> M	<b>Striped Shiner</b> <i>Luxilus chrysocephalus</i> M



## Reservoirs & Ponds

These water bodies range in size from small farm ponds to large flood control structures; the largest is Fanshawe Reservoir at 6.5 km<sup>2</sup> in area and 12.5 m deep.

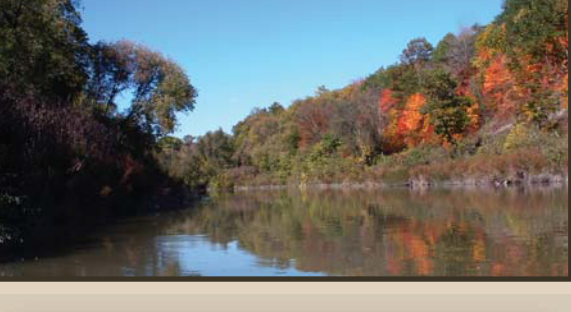
<b>Black Bullhead</b> <i>Ameiurus melas</i> M	<b>Black Crappie</b> <i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i> M	<b>Bluegill</b> <i>Lepomis macrochirus</i> M
<b>Golden Shiner</b> <i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i> M	<b>Goldfish</b> <i>Carassius auratus</i> M NN	<b>Largemouth Bass</b> <i>Micropterus salmoides</i> L
<b>Northern Pike</b> <i>Esox lucius</i> L	<b>Pumpkinseed</b> <i>Lepomis gibbosus</i> M	<b>Yellow Perch</b> <i>Perca flavescens</i> M



## Coldwater Streams

These are small (less than 10 m wide and 1 m deep), fast flowing streams with frequent riffles and cobble, gravel and sand bottoms. The summer water temperatures rarely exceed 22°C due to groundwater inputs and shading by vegetation. They are home to fish species that cannot survive in warmer temperatures, such as trout.

<b>American Brook Lamprey</b> <i>Lampetra appendix</i> M	<b>Blacknose Dace</b> <i>Rhinichthys atratulus</i> S	<b>Brook Trout</b> <i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> L
<b>Brown Trout</b> <i>Salmo trutta</i> L NN	<b>Iowa Darter</b> <i>Etheostoma exile</i> S	<b>Mottled Sculpin</b> <i>Cottus bairdi</i> S
<b>Pearl Dace</b> <i>Margariscus margarita</i> M	<b>Rainbow Darter</b> <i>Etheostoma caeruleum</i> S	<b>Rainbow Trout</b> <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> L NN



## London to Chatham

The Thames downstream of London is relatively wide (50-60 m), slow flowing and deep (4 m) with infrequent fast flowing shallow sections. The stream bottom is dominated by gravels, sand and silt.

<b>Blackside Darter</b> <i>Percina maculata</i> S	<b>Eastern Sand Darter</b> <i>Ammocrypta pellucida</i> S SAR	<b>Emerald Shiner</b> <i>Notropis atherinoides</i> S
<b>Gravel Chub</b> <i>Erimystax x-punctata</i> S SAR	<b>Logperch</b> <i>Percina caprodes</i> M	<b>Longnose Gar</b> <i>Lepisosteus osseus</i> L
<b>Northern Madtom</b> <i>Noturus stigmosus</i> M SAR	<b>Quillback</b> <i>Carpilodes cyprinus</i> L	<b>Shorthead Redhorse</b> <i>Moxostoma macrolepidotum</i> L
<b>Silver Redhorse</b> <i>Moxostoma anisurum</i> L	<b>Spotted Sucker</b> <i>Minnytrema melanops</i> L SAR	<b>Trout-Perch</b> <i>Percopsis omiscomaycus</i> S
<b>Walleye</b> <i>Sander vitreus</i> L	<b>White Sucker</b> <i>Catostomus commersoni</i> L	<b>Yellow Bullhead</b> <i>Ameiurus natalis</i> M



## Chatham to Lake St. Clair

The river downstream of Chatham is approximately 6 m deep; there are also shallower sections that are more than 60 m wide. The water is extremely slow flowing and murky; silt and sediment dominate the river bottom. Most of the channel in the lower half of this reach is confined between man-made dykes.

<b>Bigmouth Buffalo</b> <i>Ictalobus cyprinellus</i> L SAR	<b>Brook Silverside</b> <i>Labidesthes sicculus</i> S	<b>Channel Catfish</b> <i>Ictalurus punctatus</i> L
<b>Common Carp</b> <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> L NN	<b>Freshwater Drum</b> <i>Aplodinotus grunniens</i> L	<b>Ghost Shiner</b> <i>Notropis buchani</i> S
<b>Gizzard Shad</b> <i>Dorosoma cepedianum</i> M	<b>Grass Pickerel</b> <i>Esox americanus vermiculatus</i> L SAR	<b>Muskellunge</b> <i>Esox masquinongy</i> L
<b>Round Goby</b> <i>Neogobius melanostomus</i> S NN	<b>White Crappie</b> <i>Pomoxis annularis</i> M	<b>White Perch</b> <i>Morone americana</i> L NN

**M** Fish sizes are indicated as small (S) (less than 10 cm long), medium (M) (10-25 cm long), and large (L) (over 25 cm long).

**SAR** **Species At Risk:** Federal Species at Risk are protected under the Species at Risk Act (SARA). Provincial Species at Risk are protected under the Ontario Endangered Species Act (ESA). Visit the federal and provincial SAR sites for current species listings: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/species-risk-ontario> [https://wildlife-species.canada.ca/species-risk-registry/sar/index/default\\_e.cfm](https://wildlife-species.canada.ca/species-risk-registry/sar/index/default_e.cfm)

**NN** **Non-Native Species:** Also called introduced, alien, exotic, non-indigenous, or invasive species. Several non-native species have naturalized in the Thames after being accidentally or intentionally introduced. They often affect native fish populations by competing for food and cover, altering habitat, or passing on diseases. A native species is indigenous to a particular region or area.

**Habitat:** The fish species are grouped according to the habitat they prefer, although many species are found in a variety of habitats.

The following species have been recorded in the Thames River watershed, but are not pictured on this poster. Species at Risk are listed in orange; non-native species are listed in red.

Chatham to Lake St. Clair		North and South Thames	
Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Alewife</b>	<i>Alosa pseudoharengus</i>	Greater Redhorse	<i>Moxostoma valenciennesi</i>
<b>Lake Chubsucker</b>	<i>Erimyzon sucetta</i>		
<b>Mooneye</b>	<i>Hiodon tergisus</i>		
<b>Sauger</b>	<i>Sander canadensis</i>		
<b>Silver Lamprey</b>	<i>Ichthyomyzon unicuspis</i>		
Coldwater Streams		Reservoirs and Ponds	
<b>Chinook Salmon</b>	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Tadpole Madtom	<i>Noturus gyrinus</i>
<b>Coho Salmon</b>	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>		
<b>Sea Lamprey</b>	<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>		
London to Chatham		Warmwater Streams	
Brindled Madtom	<i>Noturus miurus</i>	Blacknose Shiner	<i>Notropis heterolepis</i>
Longnose Dace	<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>	Brassy Minnow	<i>Hypognathus hankinsoni</i>
River Darter	<i>Percina shumardi</i>	Brown Bullhead	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>
River Redhorse	<i>Moxostoma carinatum</i>	Least Darter	<i>Etheostoma microperca</i>
Spottail Shiner	<i>Notropis hudsonius</i>	Redfin Shiner	<i>Lythrurus umbratilis</i>
White Bass	<i>Morone chrysops</i>	Rosyface Shiner	<i>Notropis rubellus</i>

The Thames River Watershed contains one of Canada's most diverse fish communities, due to the river's many habitats, nutrient-rich waters, and connection with the Great Lakes. Over 90 fish species have been recorded in the watershed, which represents more than half of Ontario's fish species. The river is situated in a highly developed part of southern Ontario and faces many pressures from urban and rural land uses and human activities. Generally, species that prefer clear, fast flowing water are declining while those favouring turbid (less clear) conditions are increasing in abundance. Threats to fish populations include pollution, impoundments (dams and weirs), siltation, habitat alteration or destruction, and non-native species.