

Gone Fishing!

"The upper Credit is truly one of the last bastions of wilderness in the shadow of urban sprawl, one of the few remaining cold-water streams in southern Ontario that has genuine blue-ribbon trout fishing." - G. Ellis, Ontario Out of Doors, March 2000

Access Areas

- 1

ISLAND LAKE CONSERVATION AREA - Island Lake is a shallow reservoir with abundant weed beds and stumps. The deepest hole is over 20 feet. A flooded river channel and old roadbeds contribute to diverse habitats. Be prepared for strong winds. Island Lake boasts a good Largemouth Bass and Northern Pike fishery. Voluntary catch and release of bass is strongly encouraged while the harvest of pike benefits other species. Black Crappie, Sunfish, and Yellow Perch are also popular. Admission and boat ramp fee required. Canoe, aluminum boat and ice fishing hut rentals available. No gas powered boats permitted. For seasonal hours of operation phone 1-800-367-0890.
- 2

UPPER CREDIT RIVER CONSERVATION AREA - This property was purchased in 2005 with the support of numerous partners. Anglers may catch Brook Trout particularly in the early season before waters warm up. Future work by CVC and its partners will improve instream habitat for coldwater species. Access to the property is from Porterfield Road northeast of Alton. No admission fee.
- 3

MNR GRANGE PROPERTY - The Credit River and Shaw's Creek join on this property. Resident brook trout populations have been the focus of rehabilitation efforts in this area. Pike are found in slower reaches. Brook Trout are found in upstream reaches of Shaw's Creek. There is trailhead access to this property from Porterfield Road and Station Street in the Village of Alton. Upstream of Alton, access to Shaw's Creek is limited to road crossings or permission must be granted from private landowners.
- 4

CHARLES SAURIOL CONSERVATION AREA - Access is provided on the west side of the river, north of Charleston Sideroad or via the blue marked side trail of the Bruce Trail along an unopened road allowance east of the Credit River bridge. The uppermost reaches of this area have been a focus of recent rehabilitation activities and cannot yet support a fishable population of Brook Trout. Brook Trout numbers are healthy in the lowermost reaches, containing shallow riffles and rubble runs.
- 5

FORKS OF THE CREDIT PROVINCIAL PARK - Some of the best Brook Trout fly fishing water in Southern Ontario is found downstream of Charleston Sideroad to the Cataract Falls. The river is accessible via formal trails in the Park. Extreme caution is required around the active rail line and steep rock gorges. Parking lots for the park, off McLaren Road, require a fee and involve a long but enjoyable hike to the river. The lower end can be accessed from limited shoulder parking near the actual river "forks" where the Forks of the Credit Road approaches the Dominion Street bridge. One can hike past this reach along Dominion Street where the Bruce Trail enters the park. Brown and Brook Trout are typically fly fished up to the "meadow" and further upstream into the gorge towards the spectacular Cataract Falls. Fast water warrants extreme caution while wading in this area even if in low water conditions. Juvenile Atlantic Salmon may be common here and at adjoining reaches.
- 6

BRIMSTONE and FORKS OF THE CREDIT ROAD - These are the most accessible waters in the Forks area for shorter fishing trips. Shoulder parking is limited and must be shared with others visiting the area. This rocky run is especially valuable for those anglers wanting to first sample and "match the hatch" insects, such as the famous Hendrickson mayfly hatch of the Forks.
- 7

BELFOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AREA and LOWER WEST CREDIT - It is possible to fish all the way from the Dominion Street bridge at the Forks, up the West Credit to Belfountain provided you respect a few small private properties along the way. The Trimble Side Trail of the Bruce Trail is marked along the east valley wall from the Forks of the Credit Road to Belfountain Conservation Area. Although this is a smaller trout stream, this reach is steep and fast and should be handled as two full day trips. Parking at the Belfountain Conservation Area is the only public parking available at the top end. Phone (519) 927-5838 for fees and seasonal hours. Brook Trout are found in the short reach above the falls, whereas downstream they share the waters with Brown Trout. Juvenile Atlantic Salmon may also be encountered but must be released.
- 8

UPPER WEST CREDIT / ERIN AND HILLSBURGH - The Brook Trout waters of the upper West Credit can be accessed at bridge crossings, otherwise private landowner permission is required. Some limited access is available downstream of Erin in the Woolen Mills/Pine Estate Conservation Area lands but no formal trails or parking are designated beyond these properties.
- 9

TROUT UNLIMITED PRIVATE AGREEMENT WATERS - These are privately owned reaches where public access has been negotiated and maintained by Trout Unlimited Canada. Volunteers from the Greg Clark Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club, and Credit River Anglers Association help to improve the river and banks for each landowner in approved "fish-friendly" ways. Rules are posted on the property to educate anglers about respecting the river and natural areas. The barbless hook and catch and release regulations now in place were first tested for application within this reach. Efforts are underway to expand these waters, but properties under agreement can change at any time. This area is known for big but wily Brown Trout that hide under log jams.
- 10

KEN WHILLANS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA - Parking lot and washroom is located on the west side of Hwy 10. Admission fee is required. The larger of the two ponds is adjacent to the parking lot. The second "hidden" pond is attached by a small channel between the south shore of the larger pond and the Caledon Trailway. Largemouth Bass and panfish are self-sustaining but susceptible to over harvesting. Trout have been stocked periodically in the larger pond. Please observe posted rules with respect to stocked species. An ice fishing season may also be accommodated at times. No motor boats are allowed on the ponds, but small craft (abiding by water safety regulations) can improve your success. Please clean up after yourselves if picnicking along the shores. Access to the river fishery via the Caledon Trailway is to the south of the parking lot along Hwy 10. Fishing this reach of the river is challenging. The Brown Trout are more difficult to find and fish for. Up and downstream of Ken Whillans Conservation Area are private lands.
- 11

MIDDLE CREDIT RIVER - INGLEWOOD, FERNDAL, CHELTENHAM, TERRA COTTA, GLEN WILLIAMS, GEORGETOWN - This reach includes over 20 km of water that can only be accessed in its entirety from a canoe. Limited access points can be found in the above communities, with some requiring permission. There are both resident Brown Trout and the occasional migratory Rainbow Trout in these reaches. There are future plans to establish a consistent run of returning adult Rainbow Trout above the Norval Dam. Check for any recent management decisions including those for Atlantic Salmon in these reaches.
- 12

SILVER and BLACK CREEKS - Beginning in Willow Park Ecology Centre at the confluence with the Credit River, Silver Creek is stocked with young Rainbow Trout, with migratory adults being stopped at the Norval Dam. Silver Creek and Black Creek downstream of Stewarttown support a small population of resident Brown Trout. Brook Trout originate from the small escarpment tributaries such as those found at Silver Creek (limited roadside parking) and Limehouse Conservation Areas (parking lot located on the 5th Line). These smaller tributaries are very picturesque but cannot support a lot of angling pressure.
- 13

TERRA COTTA CONSERVATION AREA - This popular CVC area offers good panfish and Largemouth Bass angling in Wolf Lake. Small boats without motors can be carried in. Admission fee is required. The management of other ponds on the property is under review. The ponds may be developed as fisheries or naturalized over the long term. Stocked trout in Muskrat Pond is a popular option.
- 14

FAIRY LAKE - Access is best from Prospect Park (on Park Ave via Mill St. in Acton). The park is managed by the Town of Halton Hills. No motor boats are allowed. Largemouth Bass and Northern Pike are top predators within this lake, but angling pressures keep their numbers low. Black Crappie are more abundant and popular. Sunfish and Yellow Perch also exist. Ice fishing is good for Crappie and Pike but ice conditions are not monitored and are often unsafe.
- 15

NORVAL, CHURCHVILLE-ELDORADO PARK, MEADOWVALE CONSERVATION AREA AND STREETSVILLE PARKS AND CULHAM TRAIL - Public access is available at all of these sites when the spring trout season opens for migratory Rainbow Trout that have passed through the Streetsville fish ladder. Warm water in summer months yields few game fish. Unless Smallmouth Bass are given access above the Streetsville Dam, these waters will not fulfill their full angling potential. Canoeing is another popular activity below Norval.
- 16

LAKE AQUITAINE - Constructed as a stormwater pond to cleanse polluted urban runoff before it entered the Credit River system, this lake is best accessed from the Meadowvale Community Centre on Glen Erin Drive. This site is excellent for young anglers with abundant panfish and bass (both Smallmouth and Largemouth). This is the location of the annual Family Fishing Day held in Mississauga each July.
- 17

ERINDALE PARK to HIGHWAY 403 - This reach is famous for its year-round open season for migratory trout and salmon, which peaks in September and October. There are some good pools and strategically placed boulders for fishing. Smallmouth Bass fishing is also good into the summer. Ample parking is found in Erindale Park off Dundas St. and some limited parking near Eglinton Ave. Access is available off the Culham Trail and there is a trail parking lot on the north side of Burnhamthorpe Road east of the Credit River bridge.
- 18

LAKE ONTARIO WATERFRONT - Boat docking and launching services are available. Call Port Credit Harbour Marina at (905) 274-1595, or the City of Mississauga managed marinas: Credit Village Marina at (905) 615-4880 or Lakefront Promenade Marina at (905) 615-4870. Shore angling is permitted in some areas but restricted in others due to conflicts with boating channels. Several charter boats for salmon fishing operate out of Port Credit. Weigh stations are often set up here during salmon derbies. Access to the Credit Marshes is available through a few municipal parks located on the lower river. Lakefront Promenade Park offers many shoreline fishing opportunities for Lake Ontario salmonids, bass, and carp during the summer months.



Fish Watching and Other Opportunities

For those who don't angle but want to have a "fishy" experience, the large runs of migratory trout and salmon in the spring and fall, respectively, provide a fun and educational outing. Erindale Park between Dundas Street and Highway 403 or the Culham trail past Eglinton Avenue in September/October are excellent access points for viewing large salmon up close. Ponds like Lake Aquitaine or Ken Whillans provide a great way of seeing bass and sunfish digging nests with their tails and then guarding their young. Other species like Hornyhead Chub and Brook Lamprey pile pebbles carried in their mouths to build nests. With experience you will recognize in the field: habitat preferences; schooling or movement behaviours; feeding strategies; and more visible mass migrations or nesting activities. In the fall, surveys in the upper river for the smaller trout nesting areas occur in October/November. The Credit River Fisheries Management Plan strongly recommends establishing an interpretive salmon viewing area in Streetsville and glass bottom fish viewing boats at Island Lake for more fish watching opportunities. Just as bird watchers do, many of us simply enjoy watching fish and reassuring ourselves of other natural and intrinsic values as we recreate by the water.

Contacts

MNR for: fishing regulations and violations
1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667)
General Inquiries 1-800-667-1940
Web: www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/LetsFish

MOE for: water taking, water quality regulations and toxic spills
www.ene.gov.on.ca/en
Halton Peel: 1-800-335-5906
Guelph: 1-800-265-8658
Spills hotline: 1-800-268-6060
Sport Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program
Phone: 1-800-820-2716
E-mail: sportfish.moe@ontario.ca
Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish:
www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/water/fishguide

CVC for: flooding, floodplain/watercourse alterations, and physical alterations to fish habitat
(905) 670-1615 / 1-800-668-5557
Web: www.creditvalleyca.ca
E-mail: cvc@creditvalleyca.ca

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Burlington (Fish Habitat Management)
Phone: (905) 639-0188
Web: www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/habitat/habitat-eng.htm
E-mail: referralsburlington@dfo-mpo.gc.ca



Professional Guide Service
Ontario's Premier Fly Fishing School

416-937-4911
www.anglerspro.ca



Wilson's
CanadasFlyFishingOutfitter.com

Great Service

Excellent Selection

Friendly Advice

199 Queen Street East

Fly Shop: 416-869-3474

Toronto ON M5A 1S2

Toll Free: 877-347-4460

