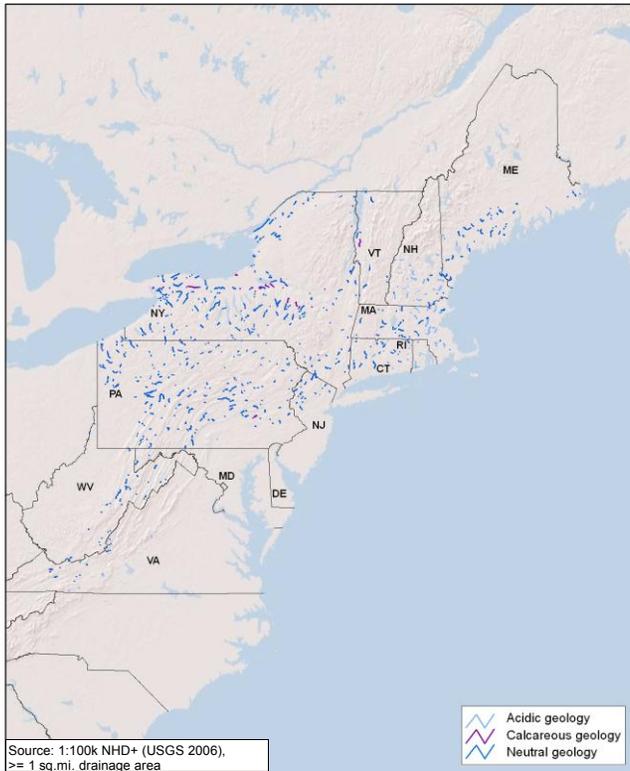


# Low Gradient, Cool, Small River

## Macrogroup: Small River

This map is based on a model and has had little field-checking. Contact your State Natural Heritage Ecologist or State Fish Game Agency for more information about this habitat.



Sudbury River, © John Phelan

### Description:

Cool, slow-moving, small rivers of flat, marshy settings at low to moderate elevations. These small rivers drain small watersheds of up to 200 sq.mi. in size and have an average bankfull width of 65 feet. The slow-moving waters are dominated by runs with interspersed pool sections and a few short or no distinct riffles. Their substrate is usually dominated by silt, sand, and fine gravel, and they may exhibit high turbidity and be somewhat poorly oxygenated. These low-gradient rivers are often described as unconfined and have moderate to high sinuosity with broader valleys. They are typically surrounded by floodplain forest, wetlands, or eroded sand or clay banks or fine sediment bars. Cool water temperatures in these rivers means the fish community will contain a higher proportion of cool and warm water species relative to coldwater species. There will be less habitat with cool enough temperatures to support coldwater species year round. Additional variation in the biological community is expected in acidic, calcareous, and neutral geologic settings where the pH of the water will limit the distribution of certain macroinvertebrates, plants, and other aquatic biota.

### Similar Habitat Types:

Small rivers also occur at higher elevations and on higher slopes, but these tend to have coarser substrates, cooler, and faster water. Warm low gradient small rivers typically flow into low gradient cool or warm medium rivers.

### Places to Visit this Habitat:

Charles River, Elm Bank | MA Sudbury River, Great Meadows NWR | MA West River, High Tor Wilderness Management Area | NY Oak Orchard Creek, Iroquois National Game Refuge | NY Tohickon Creek, Nockamixon State Park | PA

**State Distribution:** CT, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, VA, WV

**Total Habitat (mi):** 2,416

**% Conserved:** 13.4 Unit = Acres of 100m Riparian Buffer

State	State Habitat %	Miles of Habitat	Acres GAP 1 - 2	Acres GAP 3	Total Acres Unsecured
NY	37	949	8	41	510
PA	23	594	15	20	324
MA	10	251	10	32	92
ME	8	215	5	6	109
NH	6	163	1	17	69
CT	4	109	8	5	49
VT	3	70	1	4	41
NJ	3	66	11	3	24
WV	2	52	2	4	27
VA	2	38	0	0	24
RI	1	24	0	3	10
MD	0	5	1	0	2

## Associated Fish:

**Most Abundant:** bluegill, white sucker, eastern blacknose dace, silverjaw minnow, longnose dace, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, central stoneroller, bluntnose minnow, cutlip minnow, creek chub, tessellated darter, rock bass. **Less Abundant:** fallfish, largemouth bass, telescope shiner, american eel, common shiner, spottail shiner, river chub, greenside darter, brown bullhead, golden shiner, smallmouth bass, chain pickerel, redbreast sunfish, banded darter, brook silverside, green sunfish.

## Species of Concern (G1 - G4):

**Fishes:** blotchside logperch, sickle darter, ohio lamprey, mountain brook lamprey, pugnose shiner, , bridle shiner, longhead darter, kanawha minnow, eastern sand darter, gravel chub, northern brook lamprey, american brook lamprey, blacknose shiner, new river shiner, tangerine darter, gilt darter, appalachia darter  
**Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails:** oyster mussel, shiny pigtoe, littlewing pearl mussel, purple bean, clubshell, tennessee clubshell, tennessee pigtoe, fluted kidneyshell, rayed bean, brook floater, snuffbox, longsolid, yellow lamp mussel, tennessee heelsplitter, green floater, tidewater mucket, elktoe, triangle floater, slippershell mussel, eastern pond mussel, eastern pearlshell, round pigtoe, kidneyshell, spiny riversnail

See Appendix 2 for scientific names

## Crosswalk to State Names:

**Vermont:** Blacknose dace-Bluntnose minnow, White sucker-Tessellated darter, Tessellated darter-Fallfish. **New York:** Marsh headwater stream, Unconfined river, Backwater slough. **Pennsylvania:** Atlantic Basin Fish Coolwater Community 1, Ohio-Great Lakes Basins Fish Coolwater Stream Community



Bluegill, © Eric Engbretson

