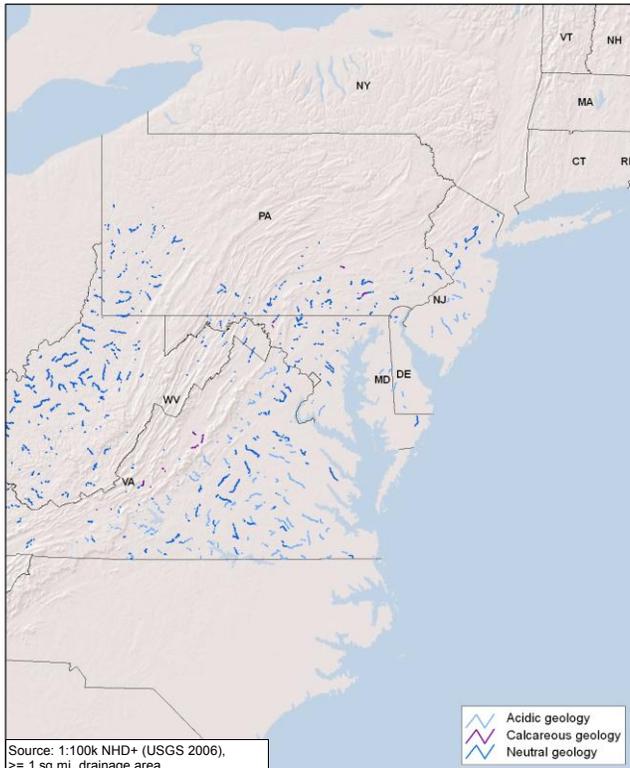


# Low Gradient, Warm, Small River

## 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.



Conewago Creek, © USDA Forest Service

### Description:

Warm, slow-moving, small rivers of flat, marshy settings at low elevations and throughout the southern Mid-Atlantic. These small rivers of southern regions, drain watersheds up to 200 sq.mi and have an average bankfull width of 62 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. Warm water temperatures in these rivers means the fish community will contain a higher proportion of warmwater species relative to coolwater species. These systems are unlikely to support any resident coldwater species. 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.

**State Distribution:** DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA, VA, WV

**Total Habitat (mi):** 2,488

**% Conserved:** 9.1 Unit = Acres of 100m Riparian Buffer

State	State Habitat %	Miles of Habitat	Acres GAP 1 - 2	Acres GAP 3	Total Acres Unsecured
VA	43	1092	7	23	651
WV	29	729	5	28	423
PA	14	343	7	4	209
NJ	7	178	16	22	68
MD	6	147	13	13	65
DE	1	24	1	2	13
NY	0	8	0	0	3

### Similar Habitat Types:

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

### Places to Visit this Habitat:

Crosswicks Creek, Crosswicks Creek Greenway | NJ Mad Horse Creek, Mad Horse Creek | NJ Great Egg Harbor River, Winslow | NJ Tuckahoe Creek, Tuckahoe Creek Park | VA Blackwater River, Blackwater Creek Natural Area | WV

## Associated Fish:

**Most Abundant:** redbreast sunfish, white sucker, common shiner, swallowtail shiner, spottail shiner, tessellated darter, bluntnose minnow, american eel, greenside darter, longnose dace, banded killifish, satinfin shiner, green sunfish. **Less Abundant:** rock bass, central stoneroller, margined madtom, pumpkinseed, eastern blacknose dace, bluegill, largemouth bass, fallfish, rosyface shiner, creek chub, northern hog sucker, yellow bullhead, smallmouth bass, river chub, golden redhorse, redfin pickerel, banded darter, variegated darter, johnny darter, sand shiner.

## Species of Concern (G1 - G4):

**Fishes:** duskytail darter, yellowfin madtom, roanoke logperch, ashy darter, golden darter, roughhead shiner, orangefin madtom, blotchside logperch, sickle darter, ohio lamprey, mountain brook lamprey, popeye shiner, longhead darter, eastern sand darter, potomac sculpin, glassy darter, tonguetied minnow, speckled killifish, american brook lamprey, river redhorse, ironcolor shiner, new river shiner, tangerine darter, channel darter, gilt darter, appalachia darter, stripeback darter

**Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails:** chowanoke crayfish, shiny pigtoe, finereyed pigtoe, littlewing pearlymussel, james spinymussel, purple bean, Cumberland bean, yellow lance, atlantic pigtoe, clubshell, tennessee clubshell, tennessee pigtoe, slabside pearlymussel, fluted kidneyshell, brook floater, atlantic spike, roanoke slabshell, snuffbox, longsolid, yellow lampmussel, green floater, tidewater mucket, salamander mussel, rough rabbitsfoot, elktoe, triangle floater, slippershell mussel, eastern pondmussel, round pigtoe, kidneyshell, spiny riversnail

See Appendix 2 for scientific names

## Crosswalk to State Names:

**New York:** Marsh headwater stream, Unconfined river, Backwater slough. **Maryland:** Piedmont Streams: low gradient variant; Coastal Plain Streams, Black Water Streams. **Pennsylvania:** Atlantic Basin Fish Warmwater Community 1, Ohio-Great Lakes Basins Fish Warmwater Stream Community



Redbreast sunfish, © Brian Gratwicke

