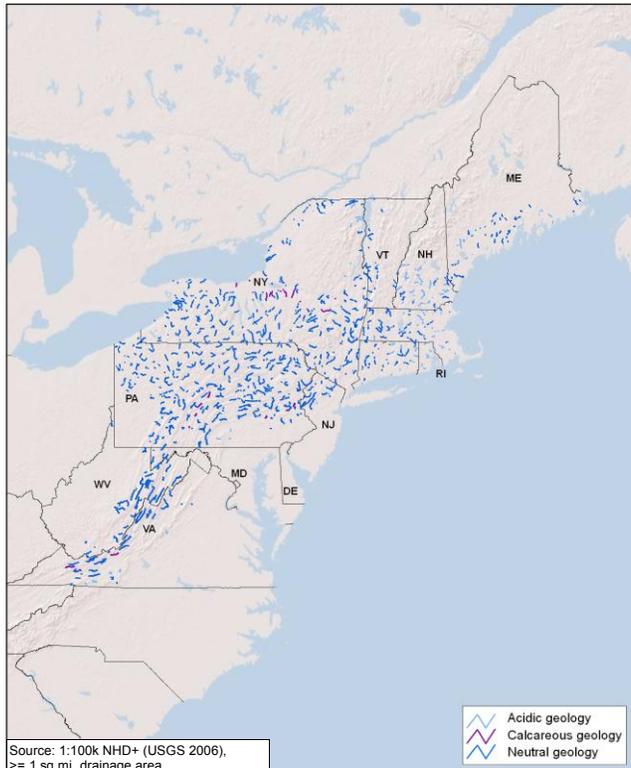


Moderate Gradient, Cool, Small River

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.



Westfield River, © Eric Aldrich

Description:

Cool, moderately fast-moving, small rivers at moderate to low elevations in the north and at higher elevations in the south. These small rivers drain watersheds up to 200 sq.mi and have an average bankfull width of 62 feet. The moderately fast-moving waters are dominated by a well-defined pattern of alternating pools, riffles, and runs. Their substrate is composed of sand, gravel, and cobble, and they often have high water clarity and are well oxygenated. These moderate gradient rivers exhibit moderate to low sinuosity with moderately narrow valleys and adjacent riverside upland communities. Cool water temperatures in these rivers means the fish community will support few permanent coldwater species and will contain a higher proportion of cool and warm water species relative to 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: CT, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, VA, WV

Total Habitat (mi): 6,343

% Conserved: 11.1 Unit = Acres of 100m Riparian Buffer

State	State Habitat %	Miles of Habitat	Acres GAP 1 - 2	Acres GAP 3	Total Acres Unsecured
PA	33	2115	38	125	1195
NY	29	1866	7	37	1129
VA	8	536	15	18	308
WV	8	529	6	78	258
MA	5	310	7	26	160
NH	4	272	4	24	140
ME	3	210	6	2	121
CT	3	188	8	14	94
NJ	2	154	17	3	79
VT	2	137	3	3	79
MD	1	47	3	4	24
RI	0	31	0	2	17

Similar Habitat Types:

These moderate gradient small rivers are transitional types and often exhibit some characteristics of both the higher and lower gradient small rivers. Similarly cool rivers are transitional between cold and warm systems and may include biota found in both colder and warmer types. Cool moderate gradient small rivers typically flow into moderate or low gradient cool and warm larger rivers in areas of less topography.

Places to Visit this Habitat:

Westfield River, Streeter | MA Musconetcong River, Allamuchy | NJ Bush Kill, Delaware State Forest | PA Little Connewango River, Connewango Swamp WMA | NY Shavers Fork, Monongahela National Forest | WV

Associated Fish:

Most Abundant: eastern blacknose dace, longnose dace, white sucker, common shiner, central stoneroller, tessellated darter, cutlip minnow, slimy sculpin, fallfish, telescope shiner, creek chub, rock bass, american eel. **Less Abundant:** mottled sculpin, smallmouth bass, margined madtom, river chub, fantail darter, bluntnose minnow, tennessee shiner, brook trout, northern hog sucker, spottail shiner, pumpkinseed, rosyface shiner, bluehead chub, redbreast sunfish, fathead minnow, mountain redbelly dace, bigmouth chub, white shiner, shield darter, atlantic salmon, yellow perch, banded sculpin, striped shiner, greenside darter.

Species of Concern (G1 - G4):

Fishes: clinch sculpin, cheat minnow, spotted darter, roughhead shiner, orangefin madtom, blotchside logperch, sickle darter, reddsides dace, candy darter, ohio lamprey, mountain brook lamprey, bridge shiner, longhead darter, kanawha minnow, eastern sand darter, black sculpin, gravel chub, bluebreast darter, greenfin darter, bluespar darter, swannanoa darter, tonguetied minnow, northern brook lamprey, american brook lamprey, greater redhorse, bigmouth chub, blacknose shiner, new river shiner, mirror shiner, channel darter, appalachia darter, stripeback darter

Crayfish, Mussels, and Snails: elk river crayfish, new river crayfish, oyster mussel, shiny pigtoe, finereyed pigtoe, littlewing pearl mussel, james spinymussel, cumberland bean, yellow lance, atlantic pigtoe, clubshell, tennessee clubshell, tennessee pigtoe, slabside pearl mussel, fluted kidneyshell, brook floater, snuffbox, longsolid, yellow lamp mussel, tennessee heelsplitter, green floater, rough rabbitsfoot, elktoe, triangle floater, slippershell mussel, eastern pond mussel, eastern pearlshell, round hickorynut, round pigtoe, kidneyshell, Chittenango Ovate Amber Snail, fontigens morrisoni, spiny riversnail

See Appendix 2 for scientific names

Crosswalk to State Names:

Vermont: White sucker-Tessellated darter. **New York:** Confined river. **Maryland:** Highland Streams. **Pennsylvania:** Atlantic Basin Fish Coolwater Community 2, Ohio-Great Lakes Basins Fish Coolwater Stream Community



Common shiner, © Jon Cloutier

