



# FISH HIGHWAY

Overhanging trees shade the water, keeping it cool, and their roots create caves for shelter.



Gravelly and sandy bottom provides the conditions necessary for spawning beds. Fast flowing water provides oxygen needed to nourish the eggs. Sandy Creek is home to 54 species of fish.

## DRIVEN TO SPAWN

Some of the species of fish found in Lake Ontario travel up this stream to spawn (lay eggs). The young fish return to the lake after they hatch. Other species live their entire lives and reproduce in the stream. The resulting abundance of small fish does not go unnoticed by the many species of birds that feed on them.



**Belted Kingfisher**  
Spies fish from an overhanging limb, plunges into the water, beak first to grab it, and flies back to the limb to eat it.



**Great Blue Heron**  
 stalks the shallow with slow motion stealth, spears fish with lightning quick lunge, and swallows them whole.



**Hooded Merganser**  
Dives below the surface, swims underwater, chases fish, and grabs them with its serrated bill.



Golden Shiners



Longnose Gar



Pumpkinseed



Bridle Shiners



Northern Pike



Largemouth Bass



Yellow Perch



Steelhead



Bowfin

Relative size of species is not to scale.

The Nature Conservancy  
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