

# Grand River Parks

[www.grandriver.ca/parks](http://www.grandriver.ca/parks)

## Belwood Lake Conservation Area

519-843-2979 | [belwoodlakepark@grandriver.ca](mailto:belwoodlakepark@grandriver.ca)

The Shand Dam is the largest flood control and water supply dam in the Grand River watershed. Belwood Lake offers hiking, picnicking, swimming, powerboating, and boat rentals. It is known for its trophy pike fishing, but in recent years it has become a strong walleye and smallmouth bass fishery. The Lake is open for ice fishing when conditions allow.

**Below the dam:** As a result of the bottom draw reservoir, the downstream section of river from Belwood to Inverhaugh offers some of the best brown trout fishing in North America. The Grand River in this area also has excellent catches of pike, perch and smallmouth bass. Note: Special Fishing Regulations apply.

## Brant Conservation Area

519-752-2040 | [brantpark@grandriver.ca](mailto:brantpark@grandriver.ca)

This park offers swimming, picnicking, hiking and camping. Anglers fish for smallmouth bass, walleye, rainbow trout, channel cat and pike.

**Outside the park:** Downstream of Brantford, the Grand River becomes much wider and more turbid, resembling a lake environment. Walleye, smallmouth and largemouth bass, rainbow trout, pike, mooneye and channel cat are commonly found all the way to Dunnville. Note: Special Fishing Regulations apply on the Grand River from Paris to Brantford.

## Byng Island Conservation Area

905-774-5755 | [byngislandpark@grandriver.ca](mailto:byngislandpark@grandriver.ca)

This park near Dunnville offers water-skiing, swimming, picnicking, camping, hiking and fishing. The Grand River and Sulphur Creek are home to walleye, largemouth and smallmouth bass, pike, crappie and channel cat. A fishway in the park allows 27 different species of fish to access the river upstream to Caledonia.

**Outside the park:** Fish in the lower river for walleye, northern pike, bass, rainbow trout, perch, channel cat and crappie.

## Conestogo Lake Conservation Area

519-638-2873 | [conestogolakepark@grandriver.ca](mailto:conestogolakepark@grandriver.ca)

This large flood-control and water supply reservoir is on the Conestogo River near Drayton. This park offers hiking, camping, picnicking, powerboating and swimming. Conestogo Lake contains perch, pike, largemouth bass and smallmouth bass. Walleye and crappie are caught occasionally. Anglers can also fish in the river for pike, smallmouth bass, walleye, brown trout and rainbow trout.

## Elora Gorge Conservation Area

519-846-9742 | [eloragorgepark@grandriver.ca](mailto:eloragorgepark@grandriver.ca)

The scenic gorge is one of the top tourist destinations in southern Ontario. Visitors enjoy camping, tubing, picnicking and hiking. The Grand River flows through the park, providing access to fabulous brown trout and pike fishing.

**Outside the park:** From West Montrose, the Grand flows south to Conestogo. Deep pools and runs hold large numbers of smallmouth bass.

## Guelph Lake Conservation Area

519-824-5061 | [guelphlakepark@grandriver.ca](mailto:guelphlakepark@grandriver.ca)

Guelph Lake is located on the Speed River just upstream of Guelph. Visitors can enjoy hiking, camping, picnicking and excellent fishing. Guelph Lake supports a great black crappie, pike, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass and perch fishery. Outboard motors are not permitted.

## Laurel Creek Conservation Area

519-884-6620 | [laurelcreekpark@grandriver.ca](mailto:laurelcreekpark@grandriver.ca)

Located on Laurel Creek in Waterloo, Laurel Creek Conservation Area offers swimming, hiking, picnicking and camping. Anglers can fish for rock bass and carp. Outboard motors are not permitted.

**Outside the park:** As the Grand flows through the urban areas of Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge it provides excellent habitat for smallmouth bass.

## Pinehurst Lake Conservation Area

519-442-4721 | [pinehurstlakepark@grandriver.ca](mailto:pinehurstlakepark@grandriver.ca)

Surrounded by mature hardwood forests, this area near Paris offers hiking, swimming, picnicking, camping and canoeing. The kettle lake is easily accessed by shore and canoe rentals are available. Largemouth bass and panfish are abundant. Outboard motors are not permitted. The park is open for ice fishing when conditions allow.

**Outside the park:** Whitemans Creek, west of Brantford, is well known for its brown and rainbow trout in the lower stretches. Special regulations apply to one section at the Apps' Mill Nature Centre.

## Rockwood Conservation Area

519-856-9543 | [rockwoodpark@grandriver.ca](mailto:rockwoodpark@grandriver.ca)

This picturesque park is located in Rockwood on the Ermasa River. Rockwood offers canoe rentals, swimming, hiking, picnicking and camping. Smallmouth and largemouth bass and stocked brown trout can be found in both the river and the reservoir. Outboard motors are not permitted.

**Outside the park:** The Ermasa River meets the Speed River in Guelph. The fishery here includes smallmouth bass, pike and brown trout.

## Shade's Mills Conservation Area

519-621-3697 | [shadesmillspark@grandriver.ca](mailto:shadesmillspark@grandriver.ca)

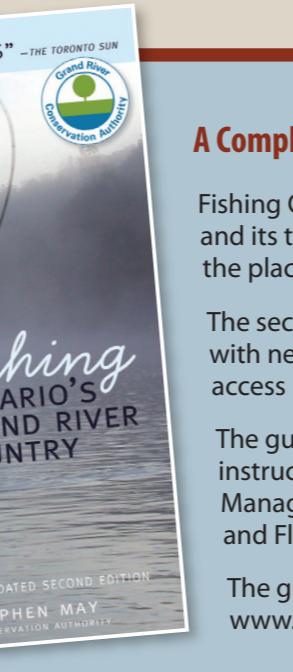
This area on Mill Creek in Cambridge offers hiking, swimming, picnicking and fishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass, perch, crappie and pike. A boat launch is available; electric motors only. The park is open for ice fishing when conditions allow.

**Outside the park:** From Cambridge to Brantford the Grand supports a high quality smallmouth bass fishery. This stretch is easily accessed by canoe or by foot, along the Cambridge to Paris and SC Johnson Rail Trails. Downstream of the Paris dam, walleye and rainbow trout are also found.

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www.grandriver.ca/parks



## Grand River Fisheries Management Plan



### A Plan for the Grand's Fisheries

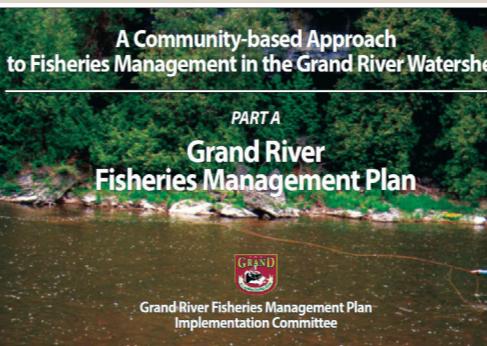
The Grand River and its tributaries have a well-deserved reputation as some of the best fishing areas in the country.

What's also remarkable is that these high-quality lakes and streams are surrounded by some of the most intensively used land in Ontario. Rich farmland and fast-growing cities dominate the landscape. These human activities can result in lower water quality which can affect the number and types of fish species that can survive in the rivers and streams of the watershed.

A plan has been developed to improve our waterways – and thus the fishery – and ensure that anglers will be able to enjoy dropping a line in the Grand for generations to come. It's called the Grand River Fisheries Management Plan and it came together in the 1990s thanks to the work of a dedicated team of volunteers from across the watershed.

Since then, an Implementation Committee has been working to carry out a long list of projects to improve the fishery. They include stream cleanup projects, removal of small dams, tree plantings and river restoration projects. They have also been involved in the successful brown trout stocking program in the Grand and Conestogo rivers.

The committee has the support of its two sponsoring agencies – the GRCA and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – as well as fishing groups, environmental organizations, corporations, community



### A Complete Guide to Fishing the Grand

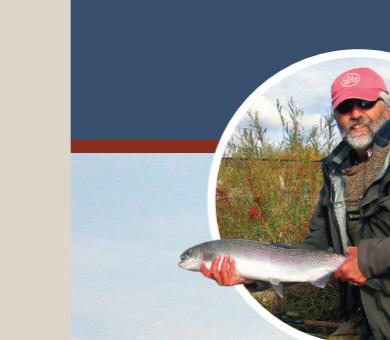
Fishing Ontario's Grand River Country is a complete guide to fishing the Grand River and its tributaries. If you're planning to fish in the Grand River watershed, this book is the place to start.

The second edition of this popular guide has been completely revised and updated with new information, colour photographs, maps, species charts and public river access points.

The guide was written by Stephen May, who has worked as a guide and fly-fishing instructor on the Grand. He also worked as Coordinator of the Grand River Fisheries Management Plan. May has published articles in Canadian Fly Fisher, Fly Fisherman and Fly Fusion magazines.

The guide is available at fishing outfitters, bookstores and online at [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca)

# FISHING THE GRAND RIVER



Grand River Conservation Authority | [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca)

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