



Izaak Walton
Fly Fishing Club



Trout Unlimited Canada



Greg Clark Chapter

5 July 2021

The West Credit River Ecosystem Colouring Sheet Activity

Dear Educator/Participant/Parent:

The Coalition for the West Credit River (Coalition) is pleased to present a fun activity to help raise awareness of the unique habitat and biodiversity of the West Credit River. It is unique because of the cold, clean water that bubbles up from springs flowing into this pristine ecosystem. Brook Trout are a sensitive species that require temperatures no warmer than 19°C for any sustained period of time, and this coldwater habitat supports one of the few remaining native Brook Trout populations in southern Ontario.

Unfortunately, the West Credit River is now under threat from the proposed Town of Erin Wastewater Treatment Plant that will discharge over 7.1 million litres of warm sewage effluent daily into the heart of this wild and self-sustaining coldwater Brook Trout spawning, nursery, and rearing habitat. To help raise an awareness, the Coalition is presenting an activity for all ages that focuses on Brook Trout and the unique ecosystem of aquatic life that thrive in this waterway.

The Coalition is advocating to relocate the discharge of sewage effluent to a less harmful location through an alternative wastewater management system, which would ensure protection of the West Credit River Brook Trout habitat and fishery for present and future generations.

The attached information sheet also provides details of a contest you can participate in to win a prize. Please reach out if you have any questions, or require additional information.

We hope you will consider participating in this fun activity this summer!

Ann Seymour

Coalition for the West Credit River

647-762-1056

info@cwcr.ca

<http://westcreditriverwatch.ca>

The Coalition for the West Credit River is made up of the following organizations: Belfountain Community Organization, West Credit River Watch, Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club, Trout Unlimited Canada - Greg Clark Chapter, Ontario Streams, and Ontario Rivers Alliance. We advocate to protect this sensitive freshwater habitat and its biodiversity in the UNESCO Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve.

The West Credit River Ecosystem Colouring Sheet Activity

Learn about the West Credit River's aquatic ecosystem by reading the information below and viewing the [video](#) and illustrations in the **Resources** section. Then add colours, and your creativity, to the West Credit River fresh-water ecosystem illustration.



Brook Trout Ecosystem Colouring Sheet Directions:

1. **Materials:** Colouring sheet, pencil crayons, markers.
2. Download the full-sized colouring sheet image.
3. Print the colouring sheet image (Make sure you print in landscape and use the "Fit to Printable area" option).
4. Learn about the colours and markings on Brook Trout. Brook Trout are very colorful, with an **orange-red belly**, scattered **turquoise spots** with a **red dot** in the center. The remainder of their body has a variety of brown colours.
5. So, get out those colored pencils and have some fun applying your artistic touches to the page.
6. To enter the **contest**, scan or take a photo of the finished art, and email it to the Coalition for the West Credit River at info@cwcr.ca along with your name and age.

Key Questions:

1. Why do Brook Trout need cold, clear water to thrive and survive?
2. Where does the water flowing into the West Credit River come from?
3. How will Climate Change affect the temperature of river water?
4. Describe the colours and where they are located on the Brook Trout's body.
5. What other species live in the West Credit River?

Vocabulary: Ecosystem, aquatic, fresh water, climate change

CONTEST: Win a prize!

There are prizes for the best adult and for the best child under 12 years of age. Once you are finished email your creation and enter the contest, just scan or take a photo of the finished art and send it to the Coalition for the West Credit River at this email address. Please be sure to let us know the name and age of the artist. You will have a chance to win one of the following:

- A Brook Trout plushie,
- The Ultimate Book of Sharks, or
- A subscription to National Geographic Kids magazine.

Contest closes at midnight on 15 August 2021. Winners will be announced on 31 August 2021.

Resources:

[Brook Trout Colours](#)

[Video of Brook Trout swimming and spawning in the West Credit River.](#)

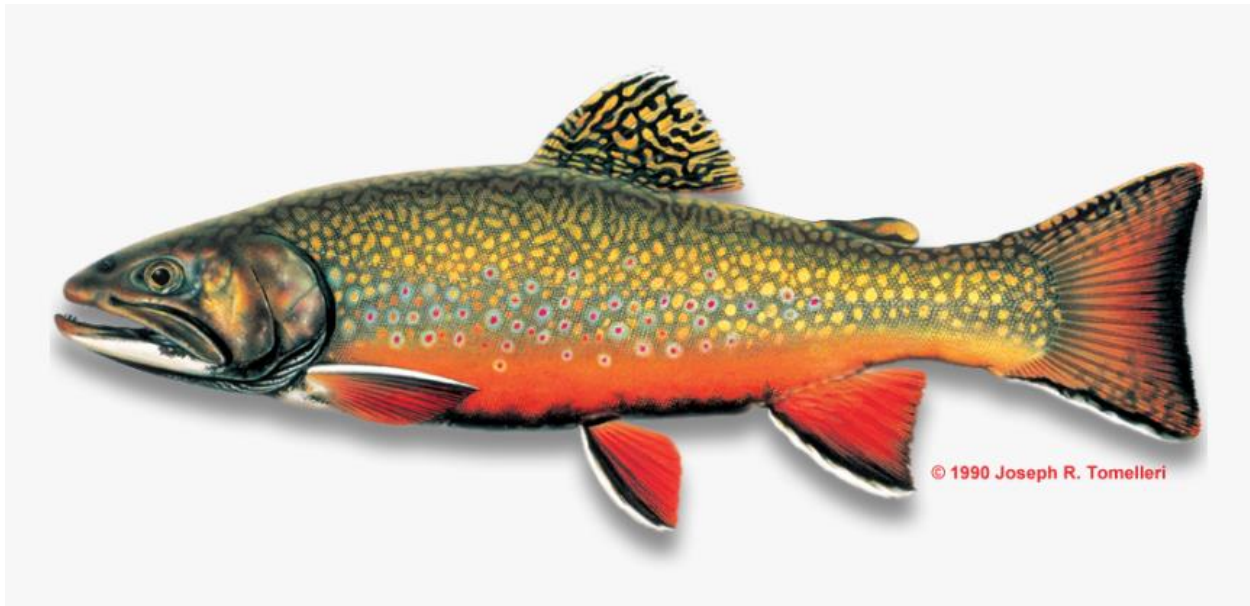
[For more information on the issues the West Credit River is facing.](#)

[Thanks to Bri Dostie for this illustration.](#)

The West Credit River Ecosystem Fish Facts

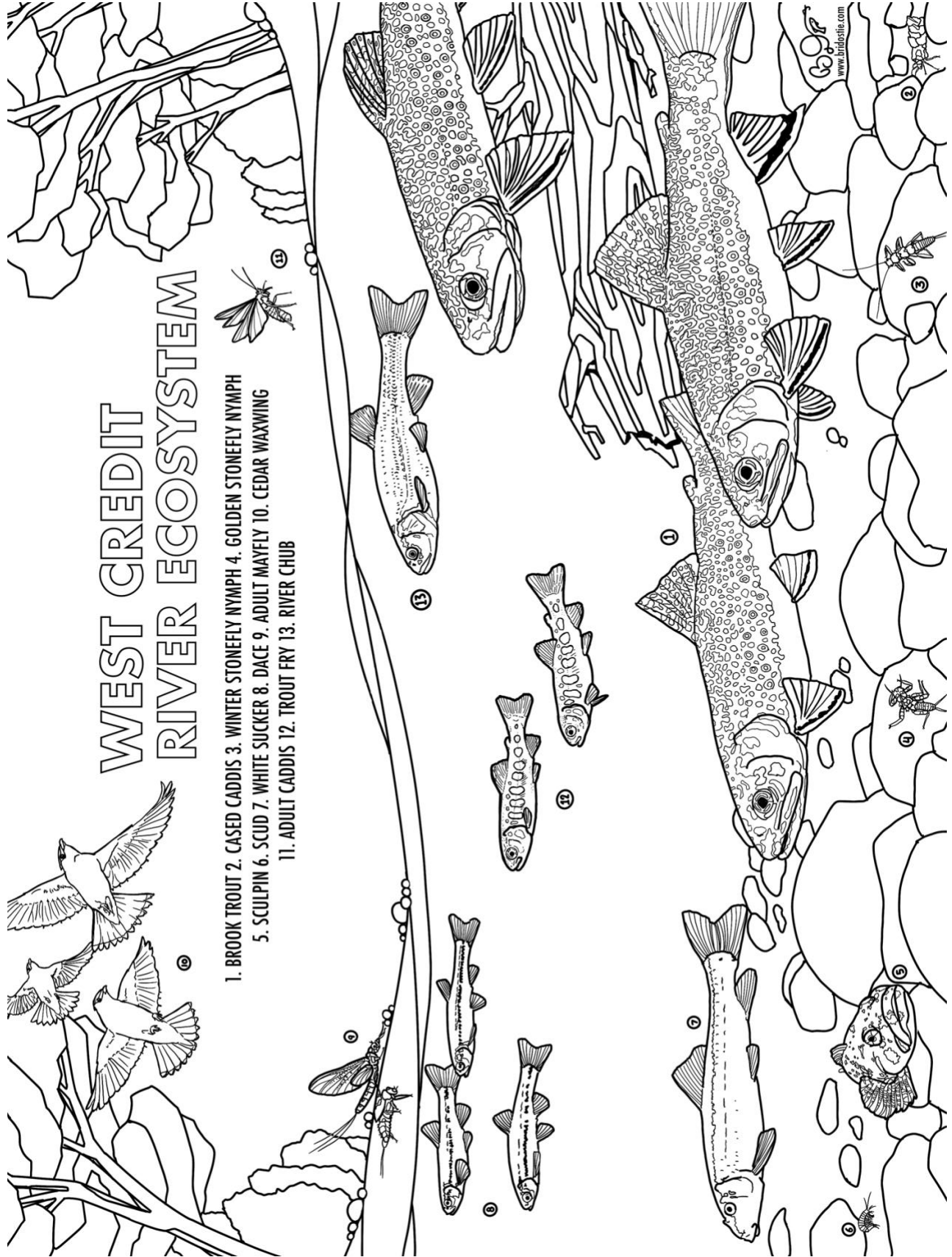
- The West Credit River is a rare coldwater river located just a short drive from Toronto.
- Water feeds into this tributary river from under-ground springs. Cold water bubbles up into the West Credit.
- The West Credit River joins the main Credit River and then flows into Lake Ontario.
- Brook Trout fish are a native species and they thrive in water that is cooled. It is very important to keep the water cool because of Climate Change. Brook Trout like to live in clean cold-water.
- Brook Trout are a sentinel species that signal cool pristine waters and wild and healthy natural spaces.
- West Credit River has one of the last remaining self-sustaining native Brook Trout populations in Southern Ontario. The Coalition for the West Credit River is working to protect them for future generations.

The Coalition for the West Credit River is committed to environmental protection, conservation, and restoration of the West Credit River. We are working to raise awareness of this unique ecosystem so that present and future generations of children, residents and visitors may continue to experience pristine nature in close proximity to the GTA.



Brook Trout are a fresh water species of fish. They are native to Ontario.





WEST CREDIT RIVER ECOSYSTEM

- 1. BROOK TROUT 2. CASED CADDIS 3. WINTER STONEFLY NYMPH 4. GOLDEN STONEFLY NYMPH
- 5. SCULPIN 6. SCUD 7. WHITE SUCKER 8. DACE 9. ADULT MAYFLY 10. CEDAR WAXWING
- 11. ADULT CADDIS 12. TROUT FRY 13. RIVER CHUB