

The Fish in Allens Creek

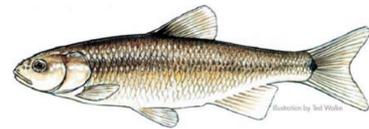
Allens Creek is home to a variety of fish: baitfish, panfish, bottom feeders, salmonoids, and even small bass.

Baitfish:

Baitfish are the fish that are too small to catch, they are used as food for the larger fish. Knowing their habits is important to understand the eating patterns of the bigger fish.



Minnow: Minnows are the small prey fish that are in the creek. They can be found pretty much anywhere and are about 1"-3".



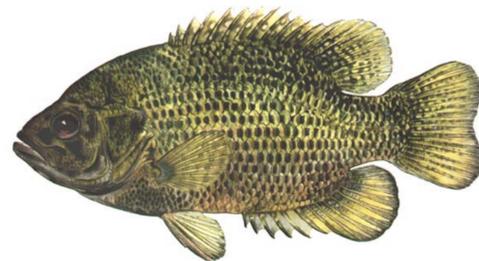
Creek Chub: Creek Chubs are a larger baitfish that can be caught in the fall in streams. They run 6"-10".

Panfish:

Panfish are slightly bigger than bait fish and are commonly found throughout freshwater. They get their names from about the size of a small frying pan, in which they are cooked. They make for good fishing for beginners and for children, in Corbett's Glen they can be caught throughout the warmer months.



Perch: Perch are slender, long fish that are known for their greenish/yellow color, and black stripes. In Allen's Creek they remain relatively small but can make for a nice catch.



Bass: Rock bass (above) and largemouth bass (below) go up the stream in the warmer months. The largemouth are very small while the rock bass can become the bigger pan-fish in the stream.



Sunfish: Sunfish are plentiful in the warmer months in deeper pools. They are bright colored and very round in shape. They can make for good fishing and put up a decent fight for their size.



Thanks to Ben Currie for this information on the fish in the glen.

Salmonoids:

Salmonoids are all fish within the trout and salmon family. Here they live in Lake Ontario during the winter and summer, and move up into the streams for food and for spawning in the Fall and Spring. The trout and salmon are what give the streams around here their fishing reputation. If you see a fisherman in the Spring or Fall he's more than likely after trout or salmon. They feed in various places in the stream mainly on small minnows and insects.



Brown Trout: Brown trout are another nice catch. They like slower, murkier waters and often pick off terrestrial insects from an undercutting bank. Browns spawn in the spring and inhabit stream in the fall as well. Again most are likely 6"-12" but some can be seen that are upwards of 30". The DEC releases browns into Irondequoit and Allen's Creek as well. Most of the fish at Powder Mills Fish Hatchery are browns.



Rainbow Trout (Steelhead): A Rainbow trout is a stream fish that likes faster currents. Its known for its wide variety of color markings on the side. The term steelhead is used to describe sea run rainbow trout. In this case it is the older fish that spend half their lives in Lake Ontario. Rainbows are great fighters and make for a pleasant catch. Most of our inhabitants are 6"-12", but the Steelhead heading up to spawn in February and March can reach 40". The DEC stocks a number of rainbows into Irondequoit Creek and Allen's Creek every spring.



Salmon: There are many kinds of Salmon that inhabit Lake Ontario and come up to spawn in its tributaries. Among them are Coho, King, and Atlantic. The Salmon run up to spawn in the fall. Unlike the trout they do not return in the spring. Salmon are likely the biggest fish Allen's Creek gets to see. Very few are smaller than 25" and some top 40". Salmon can travel 1,000's of miles throughout the sea, or in this case Lake Ontario and return back nearly to the precise location where they were born to spawn.



Brook Trout: The brook trout are a smaller more sensitive fish that thrive in wild mountain streams. Due to human interference and pollution the Brook Trout's number has decreased in many urban and suburban areas. Allen's Creek is no exception. There are likely still a few that call Corbett's their home. Brooks can still grow big in less populated areas further north, seeing one over 12" in Allen's would be unlikely.

Bottom Feeders:

Bottom feeders run up through the spring and summer. They are difficult to catch because they usually eat only nutrients from the bottom of the stream. They are known for their suction cup -like mouths.



Carp: Carp are found in the deeper pools of Allen's Creek in the summer months. They are very big and have a checkerboard scales. They are difficult to catch because they feed on the bottom and are not considered a prize game fish due to their appearance and bottom-feeding tendencies. They do however reach 30"ish in Allen's Creek and put up a very good fight.



Suckers: In the spring Allen's Creek is overrun with many large schools of suckers, while they come up to spawn. During this time fishing is difficult for other species because the suckers take so many of the streams food resources. A common sucker is usually 8"-14" and can occasionally be caught.