

# Enhancing and Restoring Local Fish Habitat

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Watersheds  
C A N A D A

Your Lakes. Your Rivers. Your Future.

[watersheds.ca](http://watersheds.ca)





- **Watersheds Canada**
- **Examples & steps of successful fish habitat projects**
- **Tools & resources for your community fish habitat projects**





**Watersheds**  
C A N A D A

- **Located in Perth, Ontario**
- **Federally incorporated, non-profit organization**
- **Registered Canadian charity**
- **Providing programs in communities across Canada since 2002.**
- **Engage and help shoreline owners enhance and protect the health of lakes and rivers.**





- Many threats to freshwater fish
- Focus on maintaining, enhancing and restoring physical habitats



# What is the Fish Habitat Enhancement Toolkit?

- Easy to follow step-by-step procedures for planning and implementing a fish habitat project in Ontario
- Videos demonstrating each type of project
- Created for community organizations, lake associations, fish & game clubs



[watersheds.ca/our-work/habitat-programs/fish-toolkit/](https://watersheds.ca/our-work/habitat-programs/fish-toolkit/)





- Each protocol provides you with detailed written guidelines
- Plus a video demonstrating each project type

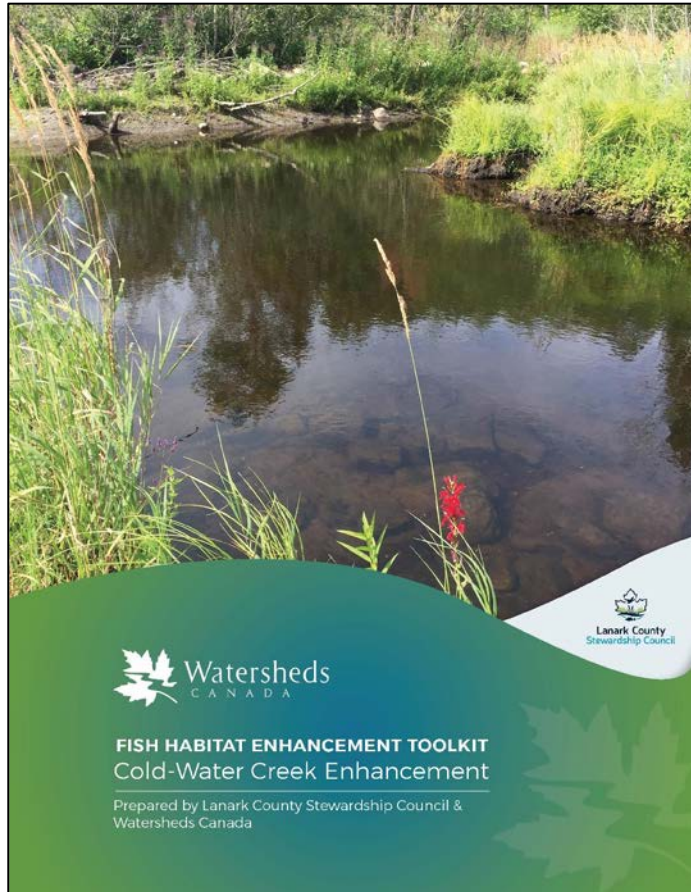


# Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>About</b> .....	<b>4</b>
What is a Cold-Water Creek? .....	4
Brook Trout .....	5
Reproduction .....	5
Water Temperature & Oxygen .....	6
Naturalizing Shorelines .....	6
<b>Planning</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Determine Your Objective .....	9
Consult Experts & Key Stakeholders .....	10
Obtain the Necessary Permits .....	11
Choose your Project Site .....	14
Plan your Project .....	17
Fund your Project .....	20
Communicate your Project Plan .....	23
<b>Implementation</b> .....	<b>25</b>
Order Material and Equipment .....	25
Install a Silt Curtain .....	26
Naturalizing Shorelines .....	28
How to Plant .....	28
Build Tree Cages .....	29
<b>Evaluate Success</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>Conclusion</b> .....	<b>32</b>
<b>Resources</b> .....	<b>33</b>
<b>Citations</b> .....	<b>34</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	<b>35</b>



# Cold-Water Creek Enhancement



- Creek that is fed by groundwater
- Flow during dry periods
- Remain cold all year  $<19^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Decline in Ontario
- Brook trout habitat

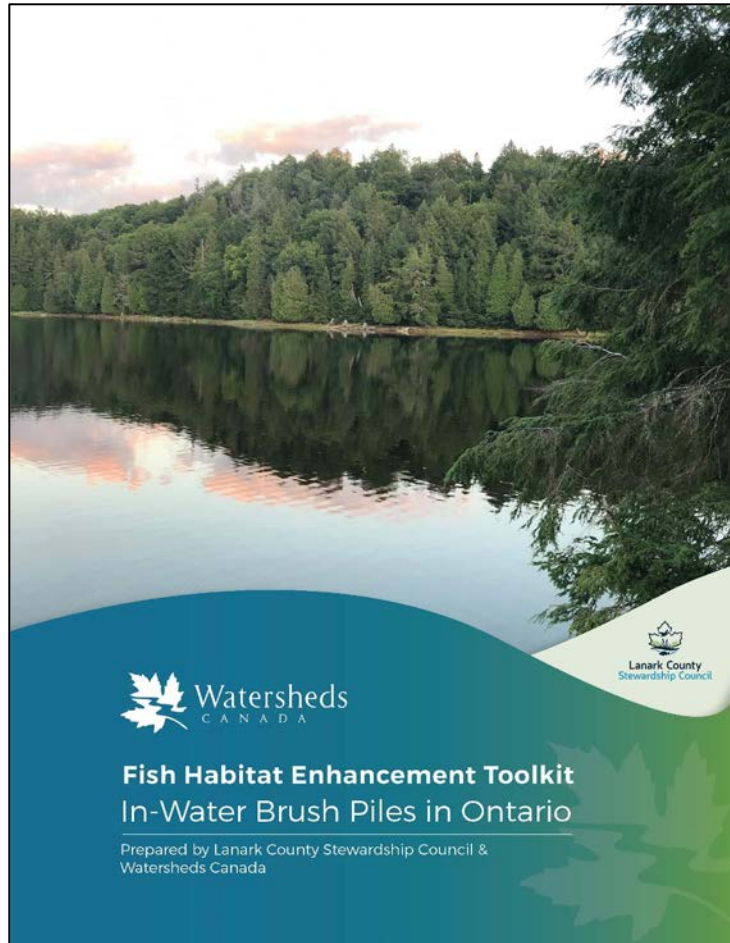








# In-Water Brush Piles (Woody Debris)



- Many terms used for in-water structures - Woody debris, brush pile, brush bundle
- Provides habitat, food source, shaded areas to rest, spawn and escape predators
- Improves water quality by reducing suspended sediments



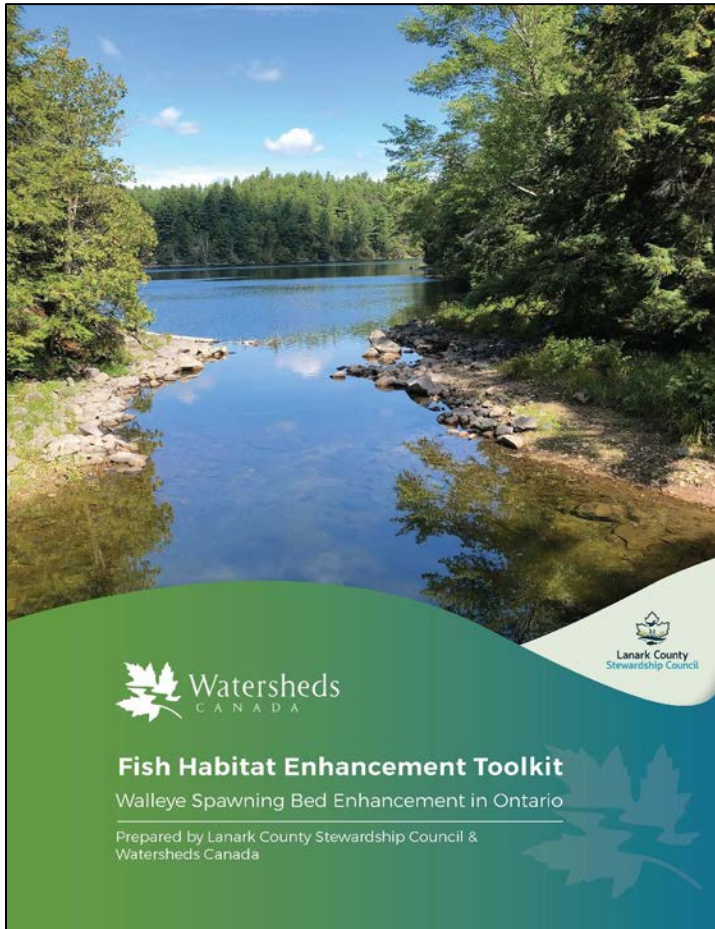








# Walleye Spawning Bed Enhancement



- Walleye spawning beds may need to be enhanced due to the deposit of sediment or algae on the rocks
- Or due to the loss of appropriate rock from high water levels or ice movement
- Walleye are known for returning to historic spawning beds
- Beds can be enhanced in the fall or the winter (depending on location) by adding appropriate sized, washed rock





  
M. Sullivan & Son Ltd.  
Est. 1914

C139104





February - adding rock on the ice



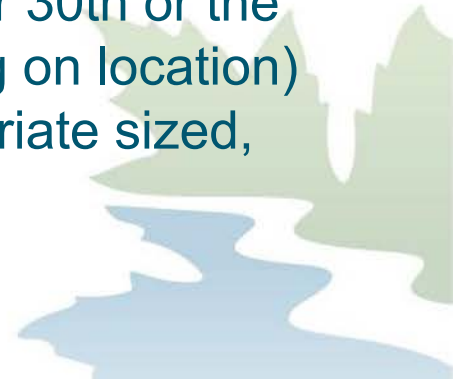
June - After



# Trout Spawning Bed Enhancement



- Trout spawning beds may need to be enhanced due to the deposit of sediment or algae on the rocks
- Or due to the loss of appropriate rock from high water levels or ice movement
- Trout are known for returning to historic spawning beds
- Beds can be enhanced in the fall before September 30th or the winter (depending on location) by adding appropriate sized, washed stone







Washing Trout Spawning Bed











**BEFORE**

**AFTER**





# Videos

- Each protocol has an accompanying video created by Pinegrove Productions
- They demonstrate each type of project
- Available on both the Watersheds Canada website and YouTube Channel

<https://watersheds.ca/our-work/habitat-programs/fish-toolkit/>



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Thank you!

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