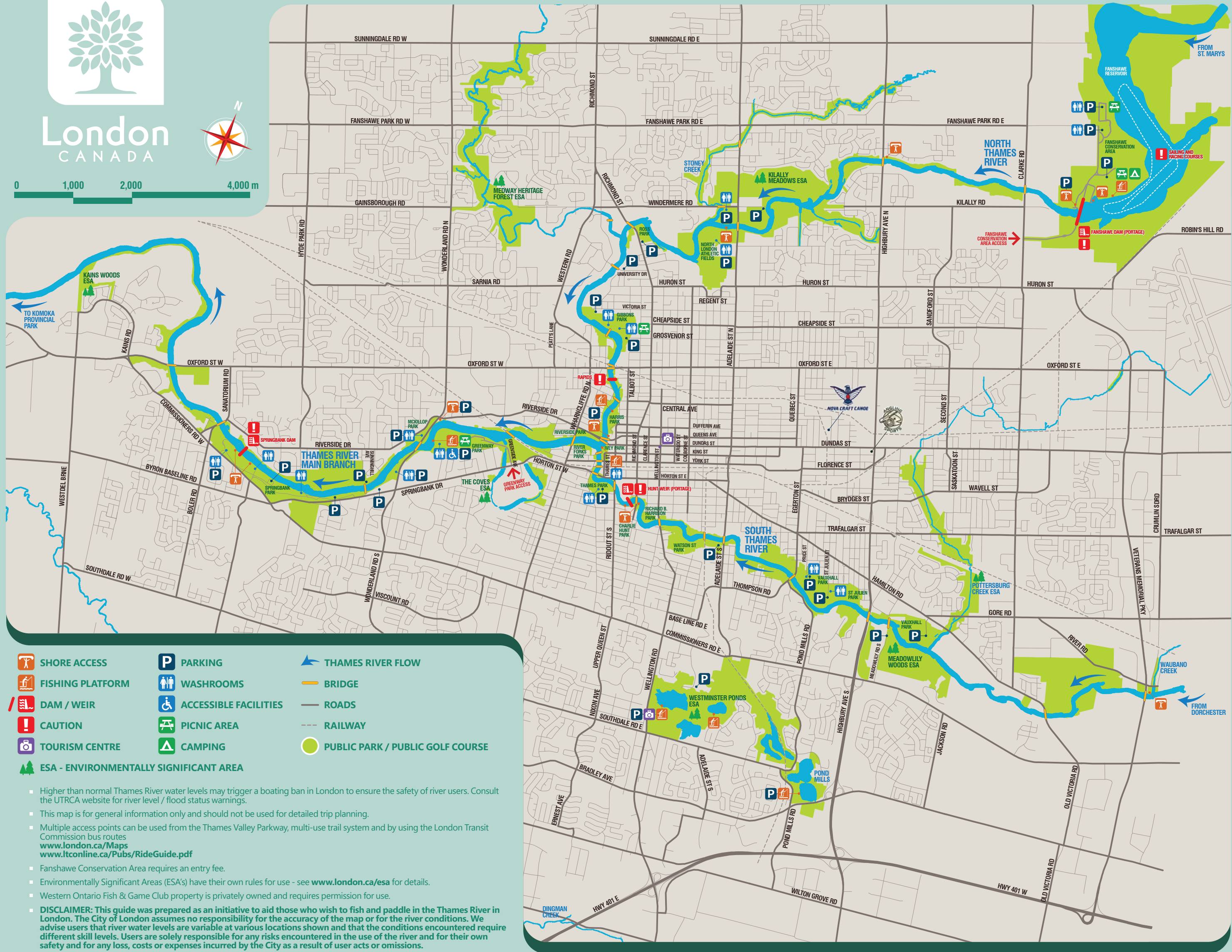




London  
CANADA



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- SHORE ACCESS
- FISHING PLATFORM
- DAM / WEIR
- CAUTION
- TOURISM CENTRE
- ESA - ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREA
- PARKING
- WASHROOMS
- ACCESSIBLE FACILITIES
- PICNIC AREA
- CAMPING
- THAMES RIVER FLOW
- BRIDGE
- ROADS
- RAILWAY
- PUBLIC PARK / PUBLIC GOLF COURSE

- Higher than normal Thames River water levels may trigger a boating ban in London to ensure the safety of river users. Consult the UTRCA website for river level / flood status warnings.
- This map is for general information only and should not be used for detailed trip planning.
- Multiple access points can be used from the Thames Valley Parkway, multi-use trail system and by using the London Transit Commission bus routes  
[www.london.ca/Maps](http://www.london.ca/Maps)  
[www.ltonline.ca/Pubs/RideGuide.pdf](http://www.ltonline.ca/Pubs/RideGuide.pdf)
- Fanshawe Conservation Area requires an entry fee.
- Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA's) have their own rules for use - see [www.london.ca/esa](http://www.london.ca/esa) for details.
- Western Ontario Fish & Game Club property is privately owned and requires permission for use.
- DISCLAIMER:** This guide was prepared as an initiative to aid those who wish to fish and paddle in the Thames River in London. The City of London assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the map or for the river conditions. We advise users that river water levels are variable at various locations shown and that the conditions encountered require different skill levels. Users are solely responsible for any risks encountered in the use of the river and for their own safety and for any loss, costs or expenses incurred by the City as a result of user acts or omissions.

# CITY OF LONDON FISH & PADDLE GUIDE



Published: November 2017

**Angling Sports**  
681 Highbury Ave N

**Bulls Eye**  
820 Wharndcliffe Road S, Unit 32

**Canadian Tire - East London**  
1975 Dundas St

**Canadian Tire - South London**  
1125 Wellington Road S

**Forest City Fly Shop**  
96 Rectory St

**Lambeth Rod and Tackle**  
2404 Main St

**Nova Sports Equipment**  
471 Nightingale Avenue

**Service Ontario**  
100 Dundas St

**The Archer's Nook**  
90 Charter House, Unit 18

Sample of those listed in the yellow pages

## Licences

All anglers between ages 18 and 64 must possess a valid fishing licence. People not in this age group do not require a licence, but have all the rights and responsibilities of people with a licence. Visitors from outside the province require a non-resident licence. Persons with disabilities do not require a fishing licence.

[www.on.wildlifelicence.com](http://www.on.wildlifelicence.com)

[www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary](http://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary)

Information about fishing in Ontario, including how to get a fishing licence, Outdoors Card, city fishing, camping on crown land, and eating Ontario fish, can be found in Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry website at:

[www.ontario.ca/page/fishing](http://www.ontario.ca/page/fishing)

## Fish Species

Fish Species	Habitat	Season
 Smallmouth Bass	• cool clear lakes, ponds and rivers • gravel bottoms or near large rocks, logs or stumps	last Saturday in June to November 30 / limit 2 for conservation licence; 6 in one day or a combination of Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass to total 6 in one day for standard licence
 Largemouth Bass	• shallow, weedy water near dense vegetation for cover • prefers warm water	last Saturday in June to November 30 / limit 2 for conservation licence; 6 in one day or a combination of Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass to total 6 in one day for standard licence
 Rock Bass	• near shoreline or cool lakes, ponds and slow-moving streams and rivers	open season / no limit
 Catfish	• bottom feeder in deeper lakes and sluggish rivers	open season / no limit
 Yellow Perch	• broad range of habitats • warm or cold lakes, ponds, rivers and streams	open all year Limit 25 for conservation licence; 50 for standard licence
 Northern Pike	• cool lakes, large ponds, rivers, near weedy shoreline	January 1 to March 31 and second Saturday in May to December 31 / limit 2 for conservation licence; 6 for standard licence
 Pumpkinseed	• still, shallow water with vegetative cover	open season / no limit
 White Sucker	• bottom feeders in warm shallow water	open season / no limit
 Carp	• adapts to wide variety of water conditions	open season / no limit
 Walleye	• adapts to a variety of water conditions • very light sensitive	January 1 to March 15 and second Saturday in May to December 31 / limit 2 for conservation licence; 4 for standard licence / not more than 1 greater than 46 cm



The Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish provides information on consumption guidelines.  
[www.ontario.ca/page/eating-ontario-fish-2017-18](http://www.ontario.ca/page/eating-ontario-fish-2017-18)



Thames River - North Branch

## Fish Handling Guide

### Angling

- Choose the right tackle for the fish you are targeting

### Handling the fish

- Keep fish in the water as much as possible
- If you need a landing net, use one that is coated or rubberized
- Wet your hands, or use wetted fish-handling gloves
- Don't touch a fish's gills or eyes
- Hold the fish horizontally and support its belly
- Do not suspend fish vertically, especially large fish
- Photograph fish in the water when possible, and be sure to have your camera ready before you hook the fish

### Removing hooks

- If possible, remove hooks while fish are in the water
- Use pliers to take the hook out as quickly and safely as possible
- If the fish is deeply hooked, cut the line or the hook shank and leave the hook in place

### Releasing the fish

- If practicing catch and release, use barbless hooks to reduce fish injury
- Lower fish gently into the water — don't just drop them
- If a fish can't swim away immediately, support it in the water until it swims off on its own

### Catch and Keep

- Keep harvested fish easily accessible for inspection
- Keep fish so they can be easily identified and counted, before storing and filleting the fish



**The Thames River water is not suitable for drinking.**  
Carry your own drinking water.

**Personal Floatation Devices are recommended when paddling.**  
Be alert and use your judgement, if in doubt of a rapid, portage around it. Leave the water if thunderstorms or lightning is approaching.

**If river flows are high**, especially after a major rainfall, postpone your trip until the flows have returned to safer levels. Flows can change quickly. Wade only where you can see the bottom. Be aware that there may be holes or deeper areas close to you.

The recommended flow for paddling on the North and South Branches is 15 cubic metres per second. The recommended flow for paddling on the Main Branch is 20 cubic metres per second. For more information regarding water flow levels please visit:  
[thamesriver.on.ca/water-management/thames-river-levels](http://thamesriver.on.ca/water-management/thames-river-levels)

For more information about paddling, contact:

- Ontario Recreational Canoeing and Kayaking Association ([www.orcka.ca](http://www.orcka.ca))
- London Canoe Club ([www.londoncanoeclub.ca](http://www.londoncanoeclub.ca))

## Health & Safety



## Contacts & Websites

**Natural resource violation:**  
1-877-847-7667

**Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry TIPS:**  
1-877-847-7667

**Crime Stoppers (anonymous):**  
1-800-222-TIPS (8477)

**Invasive species:**  
1-800-563-7711

**Upper Thames River Conservation Authority:**  
519-451-2800  
[www.thamesriver.on.ca](http://www.thamesriver.on.ca)

**City of London:**  
519-661-CITY (2489)  
[www.london.ca](http://www.london.ca)

**Boating and Canoe information:**  
[www.aceboater.com/en/equipment-pleasure-craft-must-carry-on-board](http://www.aceboater.com/en/equipment-pleasure-craft-must-carry-on-board)

## Being Eco-friendly

### Leave no trace

Dispose of your garbage in appropriate receptacles onshore or take it home with you when you leave to keep our waterways beautiful and clean. Packing out your garbage includes fish remains, bait containers and used fishing line.

### Practice common courtesy

Keep the noise down, be aware of the activities around your boat and respect both the people and the marine wildlife you're sharing the water with.

### Stay on Managed Trails

If accessing the river through city property, users should utilize managed trails/pathways and entrances

### Species at Risk

The Thames River is home to several species of risk including mussels and turtles. Respect all wildlife including basking turtles and avoid nesting areas

### Prevent Invasive Species Spread

Always clean your boat before introducing it to a new waterway using environmentally-friendly marine detergent. Do not release live bait or dump a bait bucket within 30m of a waterbody.



## Report a Poacher

You should report any **illegal activity** against Ontario's fish and wildlife, species at risk, parks and facilities by using the contact list provided in this guide.

These can include:

- The illegal sale of species at risk, wildlife or animal parts;
- Fishing out of season or taking more fish than allowed;
- Illegal dumping;
- Setting fires in public parks;
- Any other suspicious or illegal activities.

## About the Thames

The Thames River flows west 273 kilometres (170 mi) through the cities of Woodstock, London and Chatham to Lighthouse Cove on Lake St. Clair. Its drainage basin is 5,825 square km (2,249 sq mi).

The fishing is good from shore or your boat as the Thames River is home to over 90 different species of fish. The river was originally named "Deshkan Ziibi" or Antler River, by our indigenous communities.



## CITY OF LONDON FISH & PADDLE GUIDE

