



Windy Acres



Fish in the South Branch of the Rockaway Creek

There are over 90 species of freshwater fish found in New Jersey waters and of these 90 species, 60 are native to the state. The Windy Acres site incorporates a creek known as the South Branch Rockaway Creek and the creek is home to several of these freshwater fish. Some of the common ones you may see as you walk beside the creek are highlighted below.



Eastern Blacknose Dace
(*Rhinichthys atratulus*)

Eastern Blacknose Dace is a species of ray-finned fish in the genus *Rhinichthys*. *Rhinichthys* means snout fish (a reference to the long snout). The 'Dace' name originates from the Old French word "dars" which is the nominative form of the word "dart" in reference to their swimming pattern. The Eastern Blacknose Dace is found across the southeast portion of Canada and down along the United States' east coast. It is dark brown to olive on its dorsal surface and silvery white below, the two shades separated by the darkly pigmented lateral line. Blacknose dace live in rocky streams and rivers where they feed upon small invertebrates and microscopic biological matter and provide forage for larger fish. The fish can grow up to 10 cm in length.



Longnose Dace
(*Rhinichthys cataractae*)

The Longnose Dace is a freshwater minnow native to North America. Longnose dace are small, typically less than 10 cm and are characterized by their fleshy snout that protrudes past the mouth. They are well adapted for living on the bottom of fast-flowing streams among stones. Longnose Dace eat algae and aquatic insects and are important forage minnows for larger predatory fish.

The White Sucker is a freshwater cypriniform fish inhabiting the upper Midwest and Northeast. The fish is commonly known as a "sucker" due to its fleshy, papillose lips that suck up organic matter from the bottom of rivers and streams. Other common names for the white sucker include bay fish, brook sucker, common sucker, and mullet. The white sucker is a long, round-bodied fish with a dark green, grey, copper, brown, or black back and sides and a light underbelly. When full grown, it can reach lengths between 30 and 50 cm and weigh 2 to 6 pounds.



White Sucker
(*Catostomus commersoni*)



Tessellated Darter
(*Etheostoma olmstedii*)

The Tessellated Darter is a species of freshwater ray-finned fish, a darter from the subfamily Etheostomatinae, part of the family Percidae, which also contains the perches, ruffes and pikeperches. It is native to Canada and the United States. The Tessellated Darter has a slender, olive-colored body two to four inches long. Its sides are irregularly marked with eight or more X- or Y-shaped blotches. It has a short snout and eyes set close together on the top of its low head. The Tessellated Darter jerks quickly along stream bottoms from one spot to the next in search of food. This rapid movement gives the fish its common name. It feeds on small crustaceans, insects and insect larvae, snails and algae .

The Creek Chub is a slender, fine-scaled minnow with a black blotch at front of the dorsal fin and a black spot at the base of the tail fin for easy identification. The Creek Chub can grow from 6 to 10 inches and they resemble the grass carp. They can be found in the United States and Canada in any small stream or creek and they often hide under small rocks for protection.

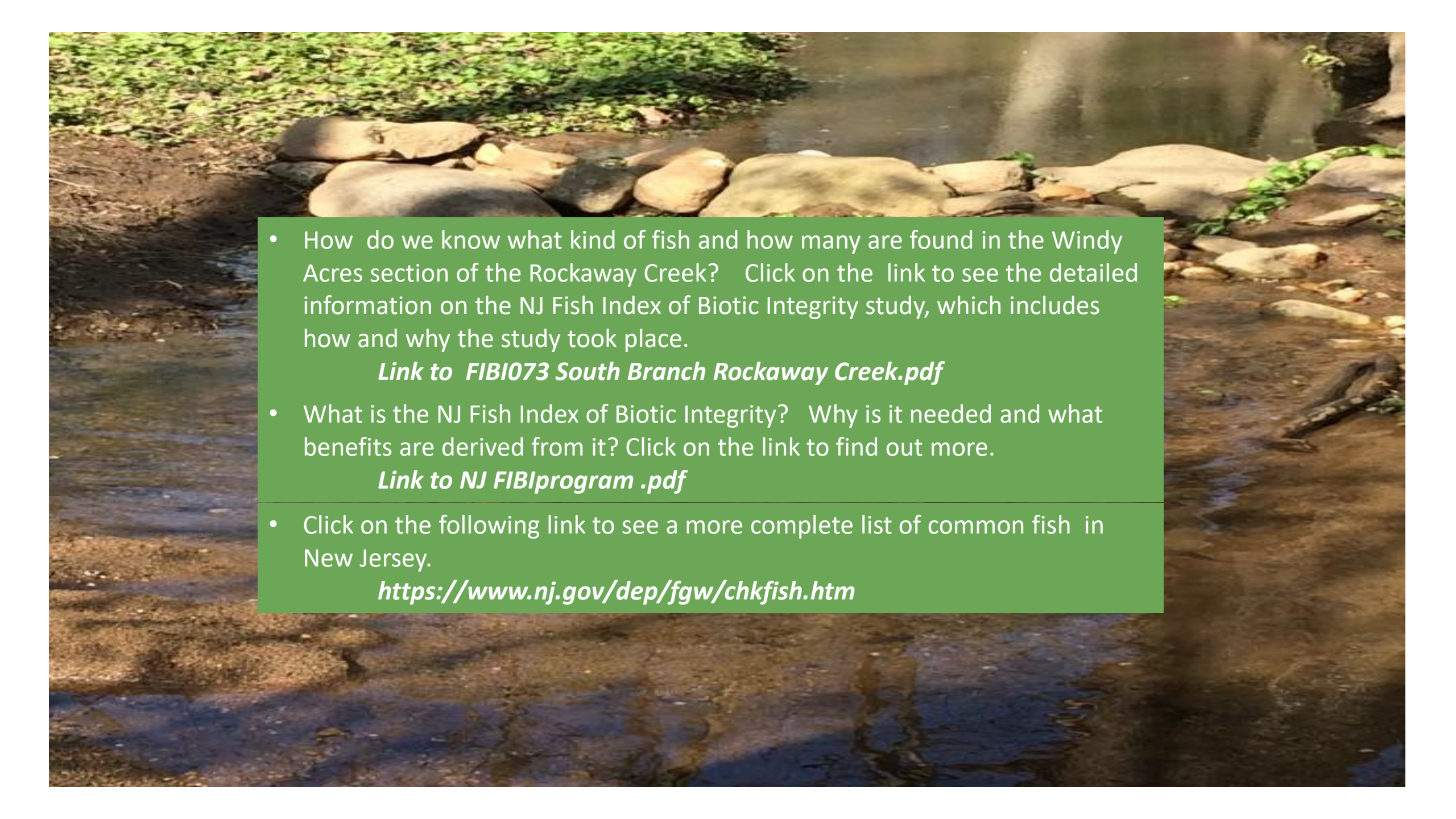


Creek Chub
(*Semotilus atromaculatus*)

The Brown Trout is a European species of fish that has been widely introduced into suitable environments globally. The first introductions into the U.S. started in 1883 from eggs obtained from Scotland, England, and Germany. In April 1884, the U.S. Fish Commission released 4900 brown trout fry into the Baldwin River, a tributary of the Pere Marquette River in Michigan. This was the first release of brown trout into U.S. waters. By 1900, 38 states and two territories had received stocks of brown trout. The Brown Trout is a medium-sized fish, growing to 44 lb or more and a length of about 100 cm (39 in) in some localities, although in many smaller rivers, a mature weight of 2.2 lb or less is common.



Brown Trout
(*Salmo trutta*)

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- How do we know what kind of fish and how many are found in the Windy Acres section of the Rockaway Creek? Click on the link to see the detailed information on the NJ Fish Index of Biotic Integrity study, which includes how and why the study took place.

[Link to FIBI073 South Branch Rockaway Creek.pdf](#)

- What is the NJ Fish Index of Biotic Integrity? Why is it needed and what benefits are derived from it? Click on the link to find out more.

[Link to NJ FIBIprogram .pdf](#)

- Click on the following link to see a more complete list of common fish in New Jersey.

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/chkfish.htm>