



# Backyard Bioblitz Program: FISH PROTOCOL



Fish viewing is a fun activity for any age, and every lake or stream provides an opportunity for a educational afternoon! Fish viewing requires patience that will pay off with exciting sightings. You can take part in fish viewing in your lakefront backyard and the Backyard Bioblitz project can help you get started! *Scan the QR code at the top of the page go to The Land Between Backyard Bioblitz Program homepage.*

Before participating in the Backyard Bioblitz program, please make sure that you have completed all of the steps and safety training on our website! When going out to search for fish ensure you are dressed appropriately for the outdoors (weather and insects) and have gathered all the equipment listed below. Like all of our Backyard Bioblitz protocols, please download the iNaturalist app and have joined the 'The Land Between Backyard Bioblitz Program' scan the QR code to the right to join.



## PROTOCOL

In the spring, fish are most active in the afternoon to dusk, as the sun has warmed water temperatures during the morning. We recommend completing this survey during this time of day, from about 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Start your search for fish along your shoreline or from a safe viewing spot like a dock. Choose three locations to view fish and spend ten minutes at each location visually looking for fish species. When observing, if a species is spotted, ensure to record details through the data sheet or take a photo and submit it to iNaturalist with its coordinates. Try to identify the fish through the Backyard Bioblitz species profiles or using a Fish Identification guide.

## EQUIPMENT

- Polarized sunglasses
- Camera or Phone (with GPS)
- Pencil or pen
- Printed data entry sheet (if you can't directly submit to iNaturalist)

## TIPS FOR YOUR SEARCH

- If you have a fishing licence approved through the Government of Ontario, feel free to cast a line to see what fish you can catch on your lake! Be sure to handle the captured fish with care. Take photos of the fish that you caught and upload your photos to iNaturalist.
- Fish species will differ with habitats! Try to incorporate various habitats into your fish observations as this will likely increase the diversity of fish species you will find. Different types of fish habitats include areas with lots of aquatic plants, fallen logs, as well as muddy or rocky substrate.
- When recording fish sightings, observe macrophytes (aquatic plants) that are present. Macrophytes provide habitat and food for many species of fish, and are essential to their survival! Some macrophytes are indicators as to what species of fish are likely to be nearby.





# Backyard Bioblitz Program: FISH DATA SHEET

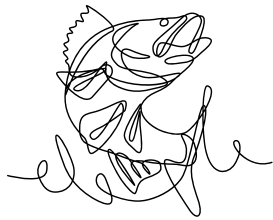


Welcome to our Fish Data Sheet! Scan the QR code on the top left or visit <https://www.thelandbetween.ca/backyard-bioblitz/> to find our featured fish for this season! This sheet is designed for those who would like to keep paper documentation of their observations and learn more about different habitats and those who are unable to use iNaturalist while conducting their Bioblitz . After adding the information to this data please submit your images and information to our iNaturalist project (if you are unable to do this you can send the data directly to us at [info@thelandbetween.ca](mailto:info@thelandbetween.ca))! You can find our iNaturalist project titled *'The Land Between Backyard Bioblitz Program'* by searching the project on iNaturalist or by scanning the QR code to the right.



Date	Time	Habitat (aquatic plants, rocky/muddy substrate, open water)	Fish description	Fish identification	Location (ex: 45.231144, -78.303301)





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