

Why are macroinvertebrates important?

1. Macroinvertebrates are a critical piece of aquatic food webs. They provide food for many animals including fish, birds, turtles and frogs.
2. Macroinvertebrates tell us a lot about the health of streams flowing into Lake Thunderbird. We expect healthy streams to support diverse communities of macroinvertebrates, some of which are intolerant of pollution.

Fun fact about macroinvertebrates:

Most macroinvertebrates eventually become terrestrial insects with wings. See below for a picture of an adult mayfly.



The Lake Thunderbird Watershed Alliance was formed in 2020 to work collaboratively with residents, communities and other stakeholders to protect the water quality of Lake Thunderbird. The LTWA also serves as a clearinghouse for Lake Thunderbird watershed-related implementation projects, research and outreach.

For more information about the LTWA visit the website at <https://LTWAOK.org>

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LAKE THUNDERBIRD
WATERSHED ALLIANCE



MACROINVERTEBRATES OF THE LAKE THUNDERBIRD WATERSHED



Dobsonfly larva (also called a hellgrammite)

The Wonderful World of Aquatic Macroinvertebrates



Dragonfly naiad



Burrowing mayfly nymph



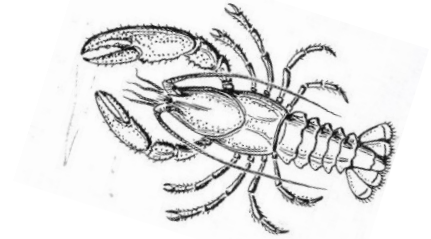
Crane fly larva



Dragonfly molting and emerging as an adult



Flathead mayfly nymph
Photo by Daniel Martin



Crayfish