



Guide To Stream Trout Fishing on New York City Watershed Property in Westchester and Putnam Counties



Trout anglers will find many fine fishing opportunities on stream segments downstream of nine New York City Reservoirs. Combined these nine stream segments offer over 13 miles of publicly accessible trout water. In most cases brown trout are the most common species, while in others rainbow and sometimes even an occasional brook trout provide diversity. In recognition of the high quality habitat and excellent thermal regimes present in some of these tailwaters the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation manages three of the best under “Artificial Lures Only” regulations. In two cases these are coupled with high size limits and low daily limits. In another we have employed a “No Kill” regulation. On all three of the streams the goal is to give trout additional protection, compared to the regular statewide regulations, in an effort to keep more fish in the stream and to allow more to reach larger sizes. Where natural spawning is especially significant the trout season runs from April 1 to September 30; others have longer seasons.

Some statistics and notes on the individual sections are as follows:

West Branch Croton River - Boyd Corners Reservoir Outlet

Season - April 1 - October 15; Minimum length - any size; Daily limit - 5; Method - angling.

This section of the West Branch Croton River flows 0.5 miles from Boyd Corners Reservoir to West Branch Reservoir. It is located in the Putnam County Town of Kent and is accessible from State Route 301. The stocking recommendation is for 500 yearling and 100 two year old (12-15 inches) brown trout to be stocked in March followed by 130 brown trout yearlings in April. Fishing is best in the spring but from mid September to the end of the season on October 15 anglers fishing here may encounter large brown trout moving into the stream from West Branch Reservoir.

West Branch Croton River - West Branch Reservoir Outlet

Season - April 1 - September 30; Minimum length - 9 inches; Daily limit - 5; Method - angling.

This section of the West Branch Croton River flows 2.3 miles from West Branch Reservoir to Croton Falls Reservoir. It is located in the Putnam County Town of Carmel and is accessible from State Route 6 at the upstream end and Drewville Road (County Route 36) at the downstream end. This section is not stocked. Wild brown trout provide excellent season long fishing opportunity. Anglers who fish downstream of Route 6 or upstream of Drewville Road will be rewarded by a wild and remote woodland setting. This section serves as a spawning and nursery stream for Croton Falls Reservoir brown trout.



West Branch Croton River - Croton Falls Reservoir Outlet

Season - April 1 - September 30; Minimum length - No kill; Daily limit - No kill; Method - Artificial lures only.

This section of the West Branch Croton River flows 1.0 miles from Croton Falls Reservoir to its confluence with the East Branch Croton River. It is located in the Putnam County Town of Carmel and the Westchester County Town of Somers. Access is available from State Routes 100 & 202 as well as the Mahopac - Croton Falls Road (County Route 34). The stocking recommendation is for 540 brown trout yearlings to be stocked in April followed by 580 brown trout yearlings in May. Since the implementation of No kill regulations in 1995 this stream has become very popular with anglers who fly fish. Growth of stocked trout, as well as a fairly significant population of wild brown trout, is very good. A cold water release from Croton Falls Reservoir makes for excellent trout fishing opportunities all season.



East Branch Croton River - East Branch (Sodom) Reservoir Outlet

Season - All year; Minimum length - 14 inches; Daily limit - 1; Method - Artificial lures only.

This section of the East Branch Croton River flows 2.4 miles from East Branch Reservoir to Diverting Reservoir and is located in the Putnam County Town of Southeast. Access is available from State Route 22 as well as several side roads. The stocking recommendation is for 1170 brown trout and 600 rainbow trout yearlings to be stocked in April. Trout stocked in this stream survive and grow very well under the protection afforded by the 14 inch minimum length limit, one fish per day daily limit and artificial lures only regulations. Wild trout, mostly all browns, although present, are not common. Owing to the good growth and survival of stocked trout, and the absence of significant numbers of wild trout, the Department of Environmental Conservation implemented all year season in 1990. Since then it is not unusual to see 10 or more anglers enjoying trout fishing on a warm winter day.



East Branch Croton River - Diverting Reservoir Outlet

Season - April 1 - October 15; Minimum length - any size; Daily limit - 5; Method - angling.

This section of the East Branch Croton River flows 2.5 miles from Diverting Reservoir to Muscoot Reservoir and is located in the Putnam County Town of Southeast and the Westchester County Town of North Salem. Access is available from State Route 22. The stocking recommendation is for 1600 rainbow trout yearlings and 300 two year old (12-15 inches) brown trout to be stocked in March. This is followed by 400 rainbow trout yearlings and 300 two year old brown trout in April and 2340 brown trout yearlings in May. Some wild browns are also present. Parts of this section are fast flowing and very accessible. They are often fished heavily in the spring. Others sections are slow flowing and more remote. These spots receive relatively little pressure but sometimes produce some very large trout.

Titicus River - Titicus Reservoir Outlet

Season - April 1 - October 15; Minimum length - any size; Daily limit - 5; Method - angling.

This section of the Titicus River flows 0.5 miles from Titicus Reservoir to Muscoot Reservoir and is located in the Westchester County Town of North Salem. Access is available from State Route 22. The stocking recommendation is for 400 rainbow trout yearlings and 100 two year old (12-15 inches) brown trout to be stocked in March followed by 120 brown trout yearlings in April. Some wild browns are also present. Most of this section is fast flowing and very accessible. Early season fishing pressure is high but drops off fairly rapidly. From September until the October 15 closing, large trout moving up from Muscoot Reservoir are a possibility.

Cross River - Cross River Reservoir Outlet

Season - April 1 - October 15; Minimum length - any size; Daily limit - 5; Method - angling.

This section of the Cross River flows 0.4 miles from Cross River Reservoir to Muscoot Reservoir and is located in the Westchester County Town of Bedford. Access is available from State Routes 22 and 35. The stocking recommendation is for 350 rainbow trout yearlings and 100 two year old (12-15 inches) brown trout to be stocked in March followed by 80 brown trout yearlings in April. Most of this section is slow flowing. Fishing pressure is high in the spring. Improved aeration of the deep cold water released from Cross River Reservoir has greatly improved this streams ability to support year round survival and growth of trout.

Muscoot River - Amawalk Reservoir Outlet

Season - April 1 - September 30; Minimum length - 12 inches; Daily limit - 3; Method - Artificial lures only.

This section of the Muscoot River flows 2.7 miles from Amawalk Reservoir to Muscoot Reservoir and is located in the Westchester County Town of Somers. Access is available from State Route 35 and Wood Street. The stream has been



managed under a variety of special regulations since 1963. Spawning habitat is excellent in the lower 1.9 miles of stream, below an old mill dam, and reproduction of brown trout is sufficient for the stream to earn it's reputation as an excellent wild brown trout water. Upstream of this dam natural reproduction is less dependable and it is supplemented with approximately 420 stocked brown trout yearlings in April. A steady release of cold water from Amawalk Reservoir provides water temperatures very favorable for excellent trout growth and survival. The recent addition of a fountain below the dam has greatly improved summer dissolved oxygen levels in the water immediately below Amawalk Reservoir. In addition to brown trout, some wild brook trout are sometimes caught in the lower section of the stream near Muscoot Reservoir.

Croton River - New Croton Reservoir Outlet

Season - April 1 - October 15; Minimum length - any size; Daily limit - 5; Method - angling.

This section of the Croton River flows 3.1 miles from New Croton Reservoir to the Hudson River and is located in the Westchester County Town of Cortlandt. Access to the first mile of the stream below the dam, which is where fish are stocked, is available via Croton Dam Road and State Route 129. The stocking recommendation is for 900 rainbow trout yearlings and 100 two year old (12-15 inches) brown trout to be stocked in March followed by 170 brown trout yearlings in April. This section of stream is fairly wide, the result of seasonally large amounts of water going over the dam's spillway. Fishing pressure is typically high in spring and low later. Excellent spring fishing for holdover rainbow and brown trout is sometimes reported following summers that had good water conditions. In most years however large fluctuations in stream flow, and water temperatures, limit trout populations.

Note: A new free Public Access Permit is required in order to fish these waters (except the Croton River - New Croton Reservoir Outlet) as well as the NYC reservoirs. Applications may be obtained at Town Halls, and local tackle/sports shops within the watershed, and on the DEP's Web site:

www.nyc.gov/watershedrecreation

Boats are permitted for individual waters only and must be left lakeside. Outboard motors (both gas and electric), sailboats, canoes and inflatable boats are not permitted. For more information contact the Watershed Protection Office at the reservoir of interest.

Ashokan Reservoir: (845) 657-2663

Rondout and Neversink Reservoirs: (845) 985-0386

East of Hudson Reservoirs: (914) 232-1309

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A fine Brown Trout

February, 2006