Cherry Creek, a tributary of Conewango Creek, is located in eastern Chautauqua County and provides a fishery for wild brown trout. Property along the stream is a mix of posted and unposted, privately-owned property, with public access available in the Cherry Creek Village Park. The stream is not stocked with trout. In 2018, as part of region-wide trout population monitoring, Cherry Creek was sampled by electrofishing at one site. Our site was located in the Village Park off Route 83. This site had been sampled previously, in 2007, 2016 and 2017. To estimate the trout population abundance, we utilized two electrofishing passes in 2016 and 2017, while in 2007 we utilized single pass CROTS methodology.

In 2018, over the 670 feet of stream sampled, we captured 73 yearling-and-older (adult) wild brown trout. They ranged in length from 5.0 to 16.7 inches (Figure 1), with an average length of 9.1 inches. The abundance of adult wild brown trout in 2018 was an impressive 606 fish/mile (±55) (Figure 2). No young-of-year (YOY) brown trout were captured in our site this year. Adult trout habitat was of good quality consisting of limited rip-rap cover, undercut banks and one deep pool.

The abundance of adult wild brown trout in 2018 at our sampling site was significantly lower (P<0.05) than we observed in 2016 and 2017, and similar to what we found in 2007 (Figure 2). Based on this year’s sampling, Cherry Creek should continue to provide quality angling for those wishing to pursue wild brown trout in a small stream setting. No changes in regulations are recommended at this time and the stream should continue to be managed as a wild trout fishery.