

Trout Fishing

Virginia contains over 3,500 miles of trout streams, in addition to numerous ponds, small lakes and reservoirs. The total includes over 2,900 miles of wild trout streams and about 600 miles of water inhabited with stocked trout. Virginia's diversified trout habitat offers a wide range of trout fishing opportunities.

Trout management in Virginia consists of three basic programs:

- **The Catchable Trout Stocking Program** is the best known and most popular. "Designated Stocked Trout Waters" are stocked from October through May with catchable-sized trout. See the Trout Stocking Plan for the streams and lakes stocked and their stocking schedule.
- **The Wild Trout Program** includes the management of reproducing populations of brook, rainbow, and brown trout. Efforts are directed primarily at habitat preservation and proper regulation for protection of spawning stocks.
- **The Fingerling Trout Stocking Program** involves stocking sublegal trout into waters that have cold summer water temperatures and a good food source. This is the smallest of the three programs, but includes many of our high quality, special regulation trout fishing waters.

Virginia's trout season is open year-round and the general statewide limits are 6 trout per day, no fish less than 7 inches. There are a number of exceptions found below for certain areas and waters (i.e., heritage, urban, special area, special regulation, and fee fishing waters), so please study the sections following for fish-

ing times, dates, and limits. These different restrictions have been applied to certain wild trout waters, as well as several types of stocked trout streams, to provide anglers with the opportunity to catch more and larger trout.

Success for both wild and stocked trout should be very high through the spring, fall, and mild winter periods. From June through September, normally low stream flows and warming water temperatures make trout fishing more difficult. However, experienced trout anglers can find good trout fishing opportunities throughout the year.

Changes/Updates

- As a reminder, a trout license is not required to fish designated stocked trout waters during Free Fishing Days. A permit is still required to fish at Clinch Mountain, Crooked Creek, and Douthat State Park Fee Fishing Areas.
- Swift Run in Greene County will be reopened as a Category B Designated Stocked Trout Water. Refer to signage along the stream for access.
- The cost for a nonresident trout license to fish in designated stocked trout waters has been reduced to the same price as a resident trout license (\$23.00).
- Stocking dates for Urban Stocked Trout Waters will be posted the week prior to stocking on the Department's trout stocking info page, www.virginiawildlife.gov/fishing/trout-stocking-schedule and trout stocking telephone line.
- The Delayed Harvest section of Passage Creek (Warren Co.) will be reopened and stocked this season.
- Two additional sections of the Middle Fork Holston River flowing through the Town of Marion in Smyth County will now be stocked

as part of the stocked trout program. The first is the portion of river flowing in front of Marion's Carl Taylor Public Pool. The second is the section of river that flows through the Wilderness Road Garden Club Park operated by the Town of Marion's Parks and Recreation Department.

- A new section of Elk Creek in Grayson County will be added to the stocked trout program to replace the Clito Road section that was lost to public access last year. The new section flows along Carsonville Road (Route 660) from near the intersection with Route 696 to approximately 0.5 miles below the Route 654 bridge.

Designated Trout Waters (Catchable Trout Stocking Waters)

"Designated Stocked Trout Waters" include those waters that are stocked with catchable-sized trout and are listed by the Director in the annual Trout Stocking Plan (see pages 36-37). These waters will only be considered designated stocked trout waters from **October 1 through June 15 (trout license required)**. A trout license is not required from June 16 through September 30. Trout angling hours on designated stocked trout waters are from **5:00 am until one hour after sunset**. See exceptions for Trout Heritage Waters (page 35), Urban Program Waters (page 30) and Fee Fishing Areas (page 35). Designated stocked trout waters are posted by the Department with appropriate "stocked trout waters" signs.

It is unlawful to fish in designated stocked trout waters after the daily creel limit of trout has been obtained or during the closed hours for taking trout. Once a trout is taken into possession by placing in the creel (basket, bucket, stringer, cooler, etc.) it becomes part

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR TROUT FISHING

(See pages 10-11 for details and costs)

Note: The trout license is only required from October 1 through June 15. From June 16 through September 30 anglers can fish in stocked trout waters without a trout license.

Fee Fishing Areas (page 35) require a daily fishing permit in addition to an appropriate freshwater fishing license.

Residents 16 years of age and older.

1. A state or county freshwater fishing license.
2. Fishing a Designated Stocked Trout Water? Need an additional trout license. (Note a resident may not use a 5-day freshwater license in combination with a trout license).
3. Fishing in most waters within the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests? Need a National Forest Stamp (refer to National Forest Stamp exceptions on pg. 12).

4. Fishing in wild trout and most special regulation waters? Some require a signed landowner permit card which can be obtained online at: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/fishing/trout/special-regulation-trout-waters/>

Nonresidents 16 years of age and older.

1. A nonresident annual, daily, or 5-day freshwater fishing license.
2. Fishing a Designated Stocked Water? Need an additional nonresident trout license.

Note: Nonresident children under 16 not required to have freshwater fishing or trout license.

3. Fishing in most waters within the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests? Need a National Forest Stamp (refer to National Forest Stamp exceptions on pg. 12).
4. Fishing in wild trout and most special regulation waters? Some require a signed landowner permit card which can be obtained online at: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/fishing/trout/special-regulation-trout-waters/>

of the daily creel limit and may not be released (culled). It is unlawful to feed, bait, or snag trout in designated stocked trout waters. It shall be unlawful for any person fishing in designated stocked trout waters to use more than one rod, one line, and one baited hook (a treble hook is considered one hook); however, any combination of artificial lures is allowed. It shall be unlawful to use seines and nets in designated stocked waters, except that a hand-landing net to land fish legally hooked may be used in all waters.

Kids Fishing Events

Kids fishing events that are sponsored by the Department and held on designated stocked trout waters will be closed to adults (anglers over 15 years of age) from noon the day before the event until the conclusion of the special event (only in the posted section). Any person over the age of 15 and accompanying a child who is incapable of hooking and landing a fish unassisted, must be properly licensed to fish in designated stocked trout waters.

Urban Program Waters

Waters in the Urban Fishing Program will be considered designated stocked trout waters from **November 1 through April 30 only (trout license required)**. A trout license is not required from May 1 through October 31. In addition trout may be creeled from these waters year-round and the trout creel limit is **4 per day, no fish less than 7 inches**. Once a trout is taken into possession by placing in the creel (basket, bucket, stringer, cooler, etc.) it becomes part of the daily creel limit and may not be released (culled). Stocking dates for these waters will be posted the week prior to stocking on the Department's trout stocking info page and trout stocking telephone line (see box below).

Special Trout Areas

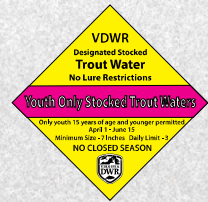
Blue Ridge Parkway

Fishing is prohibited from one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise. No live or dead fish or fish eggs may be used as bait. Digging for worms is prohibited. Special creel limits and other regulations for Parkway waters may be posted.

Shenandoah National Park

Only single-point hook artificial lures may be used—no bait. On those streams open to harvest, the creel limit is 6 trout per day with a 9-inch minimum size for brook trout and a 7-inch minimum size for brown and rainbow trout. On all other streams open to fishing, catch and release regulations apply. The release of any brown trout back into any Park stream is prohibited and brown trout less than 7 inches must be disposed of within the Park but away from Park streams, roads or trails. This is an effort to limit the impacts of brown trout on the native brook trout populations. Contact the Shenandoah National Park at 540-999-3500 for the annual list of streams open to harvest.

YOUTH-ONLY STOCKED TROUT PROGRAM



The waters listed below have been designated by the Director and will only be considered Youth-Only Stocked Trout Waters from April 1 through June 15. Only youth age 15 and under will be allowed to fish during that time period. Adults can assist youth only by baiting the hook, casting, and removing the fish from the hook. Adults cannot assist with setting the hook or retrieving the fish. The daily creel limit shall be 3 trout. Adults assisting youth are not required to have a fishing license or a trout license. Parking or access fees may be required at some locations.

Youth-Only Waters will be stocked three times between April 1 and June 1. Stocking times may vary depending on the distance from the hatchery to the receiving water. DWR will strive to stock between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. DWR may postpone or change the date of any of these stocking events due to circumstances that compromise the resource or public safety.

WATER (STREET ADDRESS)	STOCKING DATES
Northern Fauquier Community Park Pond (Marshall), 4155 Monroe Parkway	April 4; April 17; April 28
South River - Basic Park (Waynesboro), 1405 Genicom Drive	April 3; April 21; May 12
Cave Mountain Lake (Natural Bridge), 811 Cave Mountain Lake Road	April 5; April 20; May 5
Glen Alton Pond (Giles Co.), Route 635/Glen Alton Road	April 3; April 14; May 3
Franklin County Park Pond (Rocky Mount), 2150 Sontag Road	April 3; April 13; April 18
Ivy Creek - Peaks View Park (Lynchburg), 1205 Ardmore Drive	April 3; April 17; May 8
South Fork Clinch River - Dunford Park (Tazewell) 137 Riverview Lane	April 7; April 24; May 12
Two Ponds (Smyth Co.) - Mount Rogers NRA office, 3714 VA-16	April 3; April 18; May 2

PRE-ANNOUNCED STOCKED TROUT WATERS

Stocking times may vary depending on the distance from the hatchery to the receiving water but most stocking will occur between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. There will be no temporary stream or lake closures associated with these stocking events. The DWR may postpone or change the date of any of these stocking events due to circumstances that compromise the resource or public safety.

WATER	STOCKING DATE
Lake Thompson (Fauquier Co.)	April 7
South River - Ridgeview Park & Grottoes Park (Augusta/Rockingham Co.)	March 22
Jackson River - Hidden Valley (Bath Co.)	April 14
North River - Upper & Gorge (Augusta Co.)	March 24
Mint Springs Lake (Albemarle Co.)	March 17
Rural Retreat Pond (Wythe Co.)	April 15
Barbour's Creek (Craig Co.)	April 21
Middle Fork Holston River (Smyth Co.)	May 26
South Fork Powell River (Wise Co.)	May 5
Roanoke River (Roanoke City)	May 5
Pigg River (Franklin Co.)	March 17
Liberty Lake (Bedford Co.)	March 24

Quick Reference

This table only refers to stream sections classified as "Special Regulations."
See pages 31–35 for specific information.

STREAM	COUNTY	REGULATION
Accotink Creek*	Fairfax	Delayed Harvest
Beaver Creek	Bristol	Catch and Release
Big Mocassin Creek*	Scott	Delayed Harvest
Big Stony Creek (Mountain Fork)	Wise/Scott	Catch and Release
Big Tumbling Creek*	Washington	Seasonal Catch and Release
Big Wilson Creek	Grayson	9 inch min
Brumley Creek	Washington	Catch and Release
Buffalo Creek	Rockbridge	16 inch / 2 per day
Back Creek*	Bath	Delayed Harvest
Cabin Creek	Grayson	9 inch min
Chestnut Creek*	Carroll	Delayed Harvest
Conway River	Greene/Madison	9 inch min
Dan River	Patrick	16 inch / 2 per day
Dan River	Patrick	Catch and Release
East Fork Chestnut Creek	Grayson/Carroll	Catch and Release
Garth Run	Madison	9 inch min
Green Cove Creek	Washington	Catch and Release
Hardy Creek*	Lee	Delayed Harvest
High Knob Lake	Wise	14 inch / 2 per day
Holiday Creek*	Appomattox/Buckingham	Delayed Harvest
Holmes Run*	Fairfax	Delayed Harvest
Indian Creek*	Lee	Delayed Harvest
Jackson River*	Bath	16 inch / 2 per day
Jackson River (Tailwater)	Alleghany	Special slot
Little Stony Creek	Giles	9 inch min
Little Stony Creek	Scott	Catch and Release
Little Stony Creek	Shenandoah	9 inch min
Little Tumbling Creek	Smyth/Tazewell	Catch and Release
Little Wilson Creek	Grayson	9 inch min
Middle Fork Powell River*	Wise	Delayed Harvest
Mill Creek	Giles	9 inch min
Mill Creek	Grayson	9 inch min
Mossy Creek	Augusta	20 inch / 1 per day FFO
North Creek	Botetourt	Catch and Release
North Fork Buffalo River	Amherst	9 inch min
North Fork Pound River*	Wise	Delayed Harvest
North Fork Moormans River	Albemarle	Catch and Release
North River*	Augusta	Delayed Harvest
Passage Creek*	Warren	Delayed Harvest
Pedlar River*	Amherst	Delayed Harvest
Piney River*	Nelson/Amherst	Delayed Harvest
Pound River	Dickenson	16 inch / 2 per day
Pound River*	Wise	Delayed Harvest
Quebec Branch	Grayson	9 inch min
Ramsey Draft	Augusta	9 inch min
Rapidan River	Madison	Catch and Release
Roanoke River*	Roanoke	Delayed Harvest
Roaring Fork	Tazewell	Catch and Release
Roaring Run	Botetourt	16 inch / 2 per day
Snake Creek	Carroll	Catch and Release
Smith Creek	Alleghany	Catch and Release
Smith River (Tailwater)	Henry	Special slot
South Fork Holston River	Smyth	16 inch / 2 per day
South Fork Holston River	Smyth	Catch and Release
South River City of Waynesboro*	Augusta	Catch and Release
South River	Augusta	20 inch / 1 per day FFO
Spring Run*	Bath	Catch and Release
St. Mary's River	Augusta	9 inch min
Stewart's Creek	Carroll	Catch and Release
Venrick Run	Wythe	Catch and Release
Wildcat Hollow	Fauquier	Catch and Release
Whitetop Laurel Creek	Washington	Catch and Release
Wilburn Branch	Grayson	9 inch min
Wolf Creek	Abingdon	Catch and Release

*A trout license is required October 1 through June 15.

Special Regulation Trout Waters

Bait Allowed

Jackson River Tailwater

(Alleghany County):

From Gathright Dam downstream to the Westvaco Dam at Covington: No rainbow trout 12 to 16 inches; no brown trout less than 20 inches; 4 trout (combined rainbow and brown) creel (harvest) limit per day, only 1 of 4 can be a brown trout over 20 inches. All rainbow trout between 12 and 16 inches and all brown trout less than 20 inches must be released immediately. The 7-inch statewide minimum size limit does not apply to rainbow trout in this section of river. Bait allowed.



Lake Moomaw (Alleghany/Bath Counties):

The entire reservoir has the special 16-inch minimum size limit and 2 fish per day creel limit on trout. Bait allowed.

Smith River (Henry County):

From Philpott Dam downstream to the State Route 636 bridge crossing (Mitchell Bridge) located approximately 31 miles downstream of Philpott Dam and approximately 10.5 miles below Martinsville Dam: No brown trout 10 to 24 inches. The length limit for rainbow and brook trout is 7-inch minimum. The creel limit for all trout combined is 6 fish/day, and only one brown trout can be larger than 24 inches. The use of bait and any combination of artificial lure is allowed throughout this section of river. (A trout license is required in the Put-N-Take stocked sections of Smith River October 1 through June 15.) Bait allowed.

South Holston Reservoir (Washington County):

7 per day creel (harvest) limit, only 2 of 7 can be a Lake trout; no length limits. See licenses and regulations in the reciprocal section on page 13. Bait allowed.

9-inch Minimum

Big and Little Wilson Creeks and their tributaries, Quebec Branch, Wilburn Branch, and Mill Creek (Grayson County):

That portion within the Grayson Highlands State Park and the Jefferson National Forest Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. With the special regulation on Cabin Creek (see below), all of the streams within Grayson Highlands State Park are under one regulation. Access can be gained through Grayson Highlands State Park on Route 806 and 817 off



SPECIAL REGULATION

TROUT WATERS

U.S. Route 58. Be prepared to do some hiking to fish this area.

Cabin Creek (Grayson County):

That portion of stream and its tributaries within the Grayson Highlands State Park and the Jefferson National Forest Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. See above for more information on the area.

Conway River/Devils Ditch (Greene and Madison Counties):

That portion of Conway River and its major tributary, Devils Ditch, within the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and the Shenandoah National Park. The stream lies north of Stanardsville and can be reached by Route 615 from Graves Mill.

Garth Run (Madison County):

That portion of stream within the Rapidan WMA. The stream can be reached by Route 615 from Graves Mill. Most of the stream is accessible only by foot as the streams enters a gorge.

Little Stony Creek (Giles County):

That portion of stream within the Jefferson National Forest. The stream is located near Pembroke and can be reached by Route 623.

Little Stony Creek (Shenandoah County):

That portion of stream within the George Washington National Forest, including Woodstock Reservoir. The stream is located west of Woodstock and the Forest Service Road 92 crosses the lower portion of the special regulation section. Much of the upper reaches can only be reached by foot trail.

Mill Creek (Giles County):

That portion of Mill Creek and its tributaries upstream of the Poplar Street Bridge in the Town of Narrows (Mill Creek flows through the National Forest in Giles County and the Town of Narrows.) The stream can be accessed from a parking area on Northview Street, off of State Route 100, south of Narrows.

North Fork Buffalo River (Amherst County):

That portion of the stream and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest. Access is available by a forest trail off Forest Road 51 or from the end of State Route 635.

St. Mary's River (Augusta County):

All portions of the stream and its tributaries above the gate near the George Washington National Forest property line. The stream lies east of Raphine off Route 608, a short distance from I-81. Most of the area is accessible by foot trail only and backpacking is popular.

Ramsey's Draft (Augusta County):

That portion of the stream and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest. To reach this stream, drive 15 miles west of Churchville on Route 250 and look for the

Regulations for the 9-inch, 16-inch/2 fish, 20-inch/1 fish, and Catch and Release trout stream sections that follow:

1. **Only single-point hook artificial lures** may be used unless otherwise noted. (see artificial lure definition on page 33)
2. **No bait** may be in possession while fishing these waters unless otherwise noted.
3. **All trout less than the minimum size must be immediately returned to the water unharmed. No trout less than the minimum size may be in possession while fishing in these waters.**

Mountain Home Picnic Area on the right; a foot trail parallels the stream from the picnic area.

16-inch Minimum, 2 Fish Per Day

*Buffalo Creek (Rockbridge County):

That portion from the confluence of Collier's Creek upstream 2.9 miles to the confluence of North and South Buffalo creeks. The stream flows through private land and ***a free written landowner permit is required to fish these waters.** A no-cost permit, map, and additional information for this stream can be obtained by visiting DWR's website <https://dwr.virginia.gov/fishing/trout/special-regulation-trout-waters/>.



*Dan River (Patrick County):

That portion from Talbot Dam approximately 6 miles downstream to a sign posted just upstream from the confluence of the Dan River and Townes Reservoir. The upper reaches can be reached by taking Route 614 south from Meadows of Dan, turn right on Route 601, and proceed to Talbot Dam. The lower reach can only be accessed by boat at the upper end of Townes Reservoir. ***A permit from the City of Danville is required** and can be obtained at no charge from the City Utilities Department or on site at the Pinnacles Powerhouse. Contact: City of Danville, Director of Electric Division, Department of Utilities, P.O. Box 3300, Danville, VA 24543. Phone: 434-799-5270.

Jackson River (Bath County):

That portion from the Forest Service swinging bridge, located just upstream from the mouth of Muddy Run, upstream 3 miles to the last ford on Forest Service Road 481D. This section is stocked several times a year with catchable-sized trout and good populations are always present (**a trout license is required to fish in this stream from October 1 through June 15**). This section can only be reached by foot travel, either from the Hidden Valley area or off Route 623 and FS Road 481. **Note:** Multiple hook artificial lures are permitted.

Pound River (Dickenson County):

That portion from a sign 0.4 miles below Flannagan Dam downstream 1.2 miles to a sign just upstream of the confluence of the Pound River and the Russell Fork River. The section can be accessed from Flannagan Dam, which is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Roaring Run (Botetourt County):

The 1-mile special trophy trout section is located in the Jefferson National Forest between the third foot bridge upstream of the Roaring Run Furnace Day Use Area and the Botetourt/Alleghany County line. The stream can be accessed by taking Route 615 off US Route 220 west of Eagle Rock to Route 621 at Strom. The lower section of Roaring Run (within the National Forest) remains catchable stocked trout water.

South Fork Holston River (Smyth County):

This section includes approximately 4 miles of stream extending from 500 feet above the concrete dam at Buller Fish Hatchery, upstream to the upper Jefferson National Forest boundary (above the crossing of the Appalachian Trail). This section is located South of Marion and west of the community of Sugar Grove off Route 16. Anglers can access most of this section from Route 670.

20-inch Minimum, 1 Fish Per Day, Flyfishing Only

*Mossy Creek (Augusta County):

A 4-mile portion of stream upstream from the Augusta/Rockingham county line to a sign posted at the confluence of Joseph's Spring. The stream is located just off Route 42 south of Bridgewater. Fishing is restricted to fly-fishing only and ***a free written landowner permit is required to fish these waters.** A no cost permit, map, and additional information for this stream can be obtained by visiting DWR's website <https://dwr.virginia.gov/fishing/trout/special-regulation-trout-waters/>.



*South River (Augusta County):

That portion of South River from North Oak Lane Bridge in Waynesboro upstream to a sign

posted approximately 1.5 miles above the Rt. 626 (Shalom Road) Bridge. This section of stream flows through private property and *** a free written landowner permit is required to fish these waters.** A no cost permit, map, and additional information for this stream can be obtained by visiting DWR's website: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/fishing/trout/special-regulation-trout-waters/>.

**Catch and Release Only
Beaver Creek
(Washington County):**

That portion of stream and its tributaries within the boundaries of Sugar Hollow Park in the City of Bristol.



**Big Stony Creek (Mountain Fork)
(Wise and Scott Counties):**

That portion of Big Stony Creek (Mountain Fork) and its tributaries within the Jefferson National Forest from the outlet of High Knob Lake downstream to the confluence of Chimney Rock Fork and Big Stony Creek.

Brumley Creek (Washington County):

That portion of stream and its tributaries from the Hidden Valley WMA boundary upstream to the Hidden Valley Lake Dam. This portion of stream is hike-in access only from the Hidden Valley WMA.

***Dan River (Patrick County):**

That portion of stream and its tributaries between the Townes Dam and the Pinnacles Hydroelectric Powerhouse. This section can be reached by taking Route 8 south from Stuart to Route 103 west, turn right on Route 648 at Claudeville, and proceed to the powerhouse at the end of the road. The upper end of this section can be reached by taking Route 614 south from Meadows of Dan, turning left on Route 602, and proceeding to Townes Dam. ***A permit from the City of Danville is required** and it can be obtained at no charge from the Pinnacles Powerhouse or from the City Utilities Department. Contact: City of Danville, Director of Electric Division, Department of Utilities, P.O. Box 3300, Danville, VA 24543. Phone: (434) 799-5270.

**East Fork Chestnut Creek (Farmers Creek)
(Grayson and Carroll Counties):**

That portion of stream and its tributaries upstream from the Blue Ridge Parkway. The stream lies south of Galax, crossing the Blue Ridge Parkway a short distance east of Route 89.

Little Stony Creek (Scott County):

That portion of Little Stony Creek and its tributaries within the Jefferson National Forest from the Falls of Little Stony Creek downstream to a posted sign at the Hanging Rock Recreation Area.

Little Tumbling Creek (Smyth and Tazewell Counties):

That portion of stream within the Clinch Mountain WMA. Access is available from Route 91 via a WMA access road that parallels the lower 2 miles of stream. Access to the headwaters is by foot only.

Big Tumbling Creek (Russell, Smyth, and Washington Counties):

Seasonal Catch and Release Only (October 1st until five days prior to the start of the Fee Fishing Season. Closed to angling five days prior to the start of the Fee Fishing Season). That portion of stream located on the Clinch Mountain WMA from a sign starting at the foot of the mountain and extending upstream to the Briar Cove Bridge and also Laurel Bed Creek upstream to Laurel Bed Dam. A trout license is required.

North Creek (Botetourt County):

That portion of stream and its tributaries upstream from a sign at the North Creek Campground. The stream is located east of Buchanan, a short distance from I-81. The Jefferson National Forest maintains a campground adjacent to the stream and vehicular access is available along most of its length.

North Fork Moormans River (Albemarle County):

That portion of the stream from the head of Sugar Hollow Reservoir upstream to and including the portion within the Shenandoah National Park. Access is available using Rt. 614 past Sugar Hollow Reservoir.

Rapidan River (Madison County):

That portion of stream and its tributaries (including Staunton River) upstream from a sign at the lower Shenandoah National Park boundary (includes the entire stream and its tributaries within the Shenandoah National Park and the Rapidan WMA). Access to the Rapidan is available using Route 662 from Graves Mill and Route 649 from Criglersville.

Redbud Run (Frederick County):

Approximately 1.3 mile section of stream within the Redbud Run WMA starting at Route 656 and ending just downstream of Route 660. Angler parking is located off of Route 660 just north of Route 7, east of Winchester.

Roaring Fork (Tazewell County):

That portion upstream from the southwest boundary of Beartown Wilderness Area of the Jefferson National Forest. Access can be gained from Forest Service Road 222 off Route 16, south of Tazewell, some hiking will be required.

ARTIFICIAL LURE DEFINITION

Artificial lure shall include manufactured or handmade flies, spinners, plugs, spoons, and facsimiles of live animals, but shall not be construed to include artificially-produced organic baits and fish eggs that are intended to be ingested.

Artificial lure with single hook shall mean any single point lure (with no multiple point hooks). Where single-hook artificial lures are required, a multiple number of single-hook lures (such as dropper flies) fished in a series is permitted.

Single-Point Hook Artificial Lure

Legal in special regulation waters listed as "only single-point hook artificial lures."



A treble hook with two hook points removed is considered a "single-point hook."



A "dropper-fly" rig is considered a single-point hook artificial lure.

Artificial Lure—No Limitation on the Number of Hooks or Hook Points

Legal in special regulation waters listed as "artificial lures only" (ex. Delayed Harvest Waters).



Images by Meghan Marchetti / DWR

Smith Creek (Alleghany County):

That portion from the Clifton Forge Dam downstream to a sign at the Forest Service boundary above the C & O Dam. Best stream access is by Route 606 from Clifton Forge to the Clifton Forge Water Plant access road; anglers must park at the entrance and walk a half mile to the stream.

Snake Creek (Carroll County):

That portion of Big Snake Creek below Hall Ford and that portion of Little Snake Creek below the junction of Routes 922 and 674, downstream to Route 58. Fishing downstream of Route 58 is no longer permitted. Parking and angler access is only permitted along Route 922 and at the Route 58 bridge (unless an individual is a landowner or guest).

South Fork Holston River (Smyth County):

That portion of stream from the concrete dam at Buller Fish Hatchery downstream to the lower boundary of the Buller Fish Hatchery. Access can be gained through the Buller Fish Hatchery property off Route 650, south of Marion.

South River (Augusta County/ City of Waynesboro)

That portion of stream from the Second St. Bridge upstream 2 miles to the Wayne Ave. Bridge in the City of Waynesboro. A trout license is required.

Spring Run (Bath County):

That portion of the stream from its confluence with the Cowpasture River upstream to a cable and posted sign at the discharge from Coursey Springs Hatchery. Parking is available at the angler access just below the hatchery. A trout license is required October 1 through June 15.

Stewart's Creek (Carroll County):

Approximately 4.5 miles of Stewart's Creek and its two major tributaries, North Fork and South Fork Stewart's Creek, within the Stewarts Creek WMA. Stewart's Creek WMA is southeast of Galax on the east side of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Take Exit 1 off I-77. Follow the trailblazer signs to the area.

Venrick Run (Wythe County):

That portion of Venrick Run and its tributaries within Big Survey WMA and Town of Wytheville property. The stream can be accessed from a parking lot on Town property at the end of State Route 684, off of State Route 21, south of Wytheville.

Whitetop Laurel/Green Cove Creeks (Washington County):

Whitetop Laurel (2 sections)—that portion upstream from the first railroad trestle above Taylor Valley to the mouth of Green Cove Creek at Creek Junction and that portion upstream from the mouth of Straight Branch to a sign at the Forest Service boundary just downstream of Taylors Valley. There remains a section of catchable stocked trout water with-

out special regulations through the village of Taylors Valley.

Green Cove Creek—that portion from Rt. 859 downstream to its mouth. The special regulation area is located east of Damascus (near the Tennessee line) and lies within the Mount Rogers Recreation Area.

Wildcat Hollow (Fauquier County):

That portion of stream within the G. R. Thompson WMA. Foot access is available from the lower Ted Lake Trail parking area located off of Rt. 688.

Wolf Creek (Washington County):

That portion of stream and its tributaries within the Abingdon Muster Grounds in the Town of Abingdon from Colonial Avenue downstream to Stone Mill Road.

Delayed Harvest Waters

From October 1 through May 31 fishing on the following waters is permitted under specific regulations only:

1. Only artificial lures may be used.
2. No trout may be in possession (catch and release only) while fishing these waters.
3. No bait may be in possession while fishing these waters.
4. Trout license required October 1–June 15.

Note: During the period of June 1 through September 30 restrictions 1 through 3 above will not apply and these waters are like any other designated stocked trout water (see page 29).

Accotink Creek (Fairfax County):

That portion of stream from King Arthur Road downstream 3.1 miles to Route 620 (Braddock Road). Primary access is via the FCPA Wakefield Park facility off Braddock Road.

Back Creek (Bath County):

That portion of stream from the Rt. 600 Bridge just below the Virginia Power Back Creek Dam downstream 1.5 miles to the Rt. 600 Bridge at the lower boundary of the Virginia Power Recreational Area. Take Route 39 west from Warm Springs to Mountain Grove, then right on Route 600 for 6 miles.

Big Moccasin Creek (Scott County)

That portion of the stream from the VDOT foot bridge at the lower end of Gate City downstream to the Wadlow Gap Highway Bridge (Highway 58/421).

Chestnut Creek (Carroll County):

That portion of stream from the U.S. Rt. 58 Bridge downstream 11.4 miles to the confluence with the New River. The stream parallels the New River Trail State Park, and parking is available at state road crossings and at the trailhead

in Galax. In addition to the state park, many private landowners have made this program possible and anglers should be sure to respect adjoining private property.

Hardy Creek (Lee County):

That portion of stream from the VDOT swinging bridge just upstream of the Route 658 ford downstream to the Route 661 bridge.

Holliday Creek (Appomattox/ Buckingham Counties):

That portion of stream from the Rt. 640 crossing downstream 2.8 miles to a sign at the headwaters of Holliday Lake. This section is located completely within the Appomattox/Buckingham State Forest that can be accessed by taking Route 24 north out of Appomattox to Route 626. Anglers should turn onto Routes 640 or 614 to access a series of foot trails to the stream that have been developed by the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF). **A State Forest Use Permit is required by the VDOF for anyone 16 years and older who fishes in one of Virginia's 19 State Forests;** the Use Permit is available at authorized retailers who sell fishing licenses, or online.

Holmes Run (Fairfax County):

That portion of stream from the Lake Barcroft Dam downstream 1.2 miles to a sign posted at the Alexandria City line. A fairly good trail follows (and sometimes crosses) the stream from the parking lot off Columbia Pike (Route 244).

Indian Creek (Lee County)

That portion of stream within the boundaries of Wilderness Road State Park. The stream can be accessed from Route 58.

Middle Fork of Powell River (Wise County)

That portion of stream from the trestle bridge just downstream of the Town of Appalachia to the trestle bridge just upstream of the Town of Big Stone Gap. This stream reach parallels Business Route 23.

North Fork of Pound and Pound Rivers (Wise County):

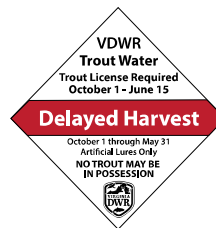
That portion of the streams from the base of North Fork of Pound Dam downstream to the confluence with Indian Creek. Access is available at the North Fork of Pound Dam and at parking lots within the town of Pound.

North River (Augusta County):

That portion of stream from the base of Elkhorn Dam downstream 1.5 miles to a sign posted at the head of Staunton City Reservoir. This is a remote section of stream that can only be reached by foot trail. Access is available by parking at Elkhorn Lake and following the trail along the lake to the spillway.

Passage Creek (Warren County):

That portion of stream from the Shenandoah/Warren County line downstream approximately 1 mile through the Department's Front Royal Fish Hatchery. This section is immediately downstream



of the area that has historically been stocked under the put-and-take program. Parking is available on Forest Service lands adjacent to Route 678 or on Department lands adjacent to Route 619.

Pedlar River (Amherst County):

That portion of stream from the City of Lynchburg/George Washington National Forest boundary line (below Lynchburg Reservoir) downstream 2.7 miles to the boundary line of the George Washington National Forest (south-east of Buena Vista). The U.S. Forest Service and the Department have cooperated in the development of three access sites to the river located along FS 39 off Route 607.

Piney River (Nelson/Amherst Counties):

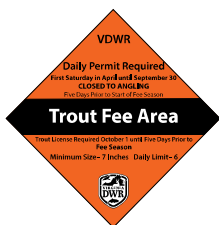
That portion of stream from the Piney River Trailhead of the Virginia Blue Ridge Trail (downstream from Route 151) downstream to the Route 674 crossing at Roses Mill Road.

Roanoke River (Roanoke County and City of Salem):

There are two delayed harvest sections located on the Roanoke River near Roanoke. The first section is located within Green Hill Park in Roanoke County and was established in 2001. The newest section is located within the City of Salem and was established in 2003. The Green Hill Park section is easily found off Route 11/460 west of Salem and stretches from the Route 760 Bridge (Diguids Lane) upstream 1 mile to a sign posted at the upper end of the park. It is best to access the stream from the park side of the stream, and anglers are encouraged to use the parking areas provided. The Salem section is located along Riverside Drive and stretches from the Colorado Street Bridge downstream approximately 2 miles to the Route 419 Bridge. This section is most easily accessed from the Riverside Drive side of the river.

Fee Fishing Areas

The fee fishing areas offer put-and-take trout fishing with the added advantage that trout are stocked several times weekly throughout the season. For those anglers who reminisce about the opening day of trout season, these areas still provide this opportunity on the first Saturday in April when they open at 9:00 a.m. (The fee season may vary among the 3 fee fishing areas. Refer to information listed under each fee area). Fee areas are closed to fishing 5 days prior to opening day. During the fee fishing season, a **daily permit (\$8.00) is required of any person over 12 years of age, in addition to a valid Virginia freshwater fishing license (all children under 16 are exempted from having a fishing license)**. Children 12 years of age and under can fish without a permit throughout the fee-fishing area as long as they are accompanied by a permitted adult and their combined creel does not exceed that of the adult (6 trout). Daily permits are available at authorized license agents



or online www.goooutdoorsvirginia.com. After the fee fishing season, these areas revert to designated stocked trout waters and a trout license is required instead of the daily permit. The creel limit at these areas is six fish per day, minimum length 7 inches. Fishermen are required to use separate stringers. Bait or artificial lures may be used as posted. Children-only fishing area (where applicable) regulations are posted.

Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area:

This fee area is located in southwest Virginia, about 7 miles west of Saltville. A **daily permit (\$8.00) is required from the first Saturday in April through September 30**. Trout are stocked 4 times per week throughout the fee period, and fishing begins at 5:00 a.m. daily, except for 9:00 a.m. on opening day, and ends one hour after sunset. The area consists of approximately 7 miles of Big Tumbling Creek and its two major tributaries, Briar Cove Creek and Laurel Bed Creek. **Note:** Access to Laurel Bed Lake is also closed the 5 days prior to opening day for this fee area.

Directions: From Saltville, turn left off of Rt. 107 onto Rt. 91 (1/4 mile); then right onto Rt. 634; bear left onto Rt. 613 and proceed 3.5 miles; then right onto Rt. 747 to the area.

Crooked Creek Fee Fishing Area:

This area is located in Carroll County, 5 miles east of Galax, and consists of a 5-mile stocked section and an approximately 2-mile section managed as a wild trout fishery. A **daily permit**

(\$8.00) is required from the first Saturday in April through September 30. Trout are stocked 4 times per week throughout the fee period, and fishing begins at 5:00 a.m. daily, except for 9:00 a.m. on opening day, and ends one hour after sunset.

Directions: From Galax, take Rt. 58 east to Woodlawn, then take Rt. 620 south approximately 4 miles to the area.

Douthat State Park Fee Fishing Area:

This area includes Douthat State Park Lake (60 acres) and 4 miles of Wilson Creek: above the lake to the park boundary and downstream to the lower USFS boundary. Trout are stocked 2 times per week throughout the fee period with the exception of the final week of the fee season which will receive a single stocking of a double load. A **daily permit (\$8.00) is required from the first Saturday in April through June 15 and from September 15 through October 31. From June 16 through September 14, no trout will be stocked and no daily fee or trout license is required**. Fishing begins at 6:00 a.m. daily, except on opening day (9:00 a.m.). A small "children-only" area has been established on Wilson Creek, just below the dam.

Directions: Located 7 miles north of Clifton Forge on Rt. 629 which can be accessed by Exit 27 off of I-64.

For maps and more detailed trout fishing information check out: www.virginiawildlife.gov/fishing/trout/.

2023 TROUT HERITAGE WATERS

This program was added for those anglers who enjoyed and missed the old opening day. Selected waters are stocked for the first Saturday in April to create an announced stocking event.

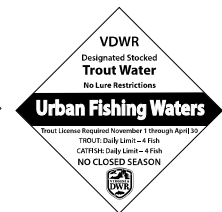
The following waters will be stocked for the April 1st Heritage Day:

<p>Beartree Lake Washington County</p> <p>Bark Camp Lake Scott County</p> <p>Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area* Washington County</p> <p>Cripple Creek (Ravens Cliff) Wythe County</p> <p>Crooked Creek Fee Fishing Area* Carroll County</p> <p>Douthat State Park Fee Fishing Area* Bath County</p>	<p>Hawksbill Creek Page County</p> <p>Jennings Creek Botetourt County</p> <p>Lake Witten Tazewell County</p> <p>Liberty Lake Bedford County</p> <p>Lincolnshire Lake Tazewell County</p> <p>Middle Fork Holston River Smyth County</p> <p>Passage Creek Shenandoah County</p>	<p>Pedlar River (upper) Amherst County</p> <p>Pigg River Franklin County</p> <p>Quantico MCB Prince William County</p> <p>Robinson River Madison County</p> <p>Rose River Madison County</p> <p>South Fork Powell River Wise County</p> <p>Tinker Creek Roanoke County</p>
---	--	---

* The fee fishing areas are closed to angling from March 27 to 31. Heritage Waters are closed on March 31. On April 1, fishing can begin at 9:00 a.m.

2023 Catchable Trout Stocking Plan

These waters are considered Designated Trout Waters and require a trout license between October 1 and June 15. Urban Waters require a trout license November 1–April 30.



Category A – stocked 8 times between October 1 and May 31.

Category B – stocked 5 times between October 1 and May 15.

Category C – stocked 3 times between October 1 and April 30.

* – National Forest Waters.

+ – Douthat Lake stocked 4 times and Wilson Creek stocked 5 times outside of the fee fishing season.

CR – Catch and release-stocked 3 times between October 1 and May 31.

DH – Delayed Harvest Water-Special Regulations apply, please refer to Delayed Harvest waters on page 34. (stocked 3 times)

(NSF) – These waters receive one less stocking between October 1 and May 31.

** – A section of these waters is reserved for a fee fishing area.

(H) – These waters will receive a stocking for the “Heritage Day” program. Heritage Day is April 2. For details see page 35.

U – Urban fishing waters, trout license required November 1 through April 30, stocked 5 times between November 1 and April 15.

Stocking information for put-and-take stocking can be obtained on our website or by calling 434-525-FISH (3474). Both are updated after 3:00 pm each day fish are stocked.

*** The water discharge on Thompson WMA Pond has experienced periodic leaking over the past several years. Thompson will be stocked as a Category A water, provided the pond water level is compatible with stocking needs.

**** Passage Creek Delayed Harvest will be closed to fishing due to construction at the Front Royal Fish Hatchery.

***** Pedlar River Delayed Harvest may not be stocked during the fall months due to low stream flows.



ALBEMARLE COUNTY		
Mint Springs Lake (Upper)	A	
Mint Springs Lake (Middle)	A	
Moormans River (S. Fork)	B	
Scottsville Lake	A	
Sugar Hollow Reservoir	A	
ALEXANDRIA CITY		
Cook Lake	U	
ALLEGHANY COUNTY		
Clifton Forge Reservoir*	A	
Pounding Mill Creek*	B	
Smith Creek*	C	(NSF)
Wilson Creek	C	
AMHERST COUNTY		
Davis Mill Creek*	C	
Little Irish Creek*	C	(NSF)
Pedlar River (Below dam)* *****	DH	
Pedlar River (Lower)*	A	
Pedlar River (Upper)*	B	(H)
Piney River*	DH	
Piney River (S. Fk. and Proper)*	B	(NSF)
Rocky Row Run*	C	
APPOMATTOX COUNTY		
Holliday Creek	DH	
AUGUSTA COUNTY		
Back Creek*	B	
Brale Pond*	A	
Elkhorn Lake*	A	
Falls Hollow*	C	(NSF)
Hearthstone Lake*	B	
Lower Sherando Lake*	A	
Mills Creek*	C	
North River (Natural Chimneys)	B	
North River (Gorge)*	B	

North River (Upper)*	B	(NSF)
North River (Tail)*	DH	
South River (Ridgeview Park)	A	
South River	CR	
Upper Sherando Lake*	B	
BATH COUNTY		
Back Creek	DH	
Back Creek*	A	
Bullpasture River	A	
Cowpasture River*	A	
Douthat Lake	+	
Wilson Creek	+	
Jackson River Special Reg.*		
Jackson River (Hidden Valley)*	A	
Jackson River (Rt. 623)*	A	
Pads Creek*	B	
Spring Run	CR	
BEDFORD COUNTY		
Liberty Lake	A	(H)
BLAND COUNTY		
Laurel Fork Creek	C	
Lick Creek	B	
Wolf Creek	A	
BOTETOURT COUNTY		
Jennings Creek*	A	(H)
McFalls Creek*	C	
Middle Creek*	B	
North Creek*	B	
Roaring Run*	B	
BUCHANAN COUNTY		
Dismal River	A	
Russell Fork River	C	

CARROLL COUNTY		
Chestnut Creek	DH	
Crooked Creek	A	**
Little Reed Island Creek	A	
Lovills Creek	C	
Stewarts Creek	B	(NSF)
CHESAPEAKE CITY		
Northwest River Park	U	
CRAIG COUNTY		
Barbours Creek*	B	(NSF)
Potts Creek*	A	
DICKENSON COUNTY		
Cranesnest River	B	
Frying Pan Creek	C	
Pound River (Flannagan Dam)	A	
Russell Fork River (Haysi)	B	
Russell Fork River (Bartlick)	A	
FAIRFAX COUNTY		
Accotink Creek	DH	
Holmes Run	DH	
FAUQUIER COUNTY		
Thompson WMA Pond	A***	
FLOYD COUNTY		
Burkes Fork	A	
Goose Creek	B	
Laurel Fork	B	
Little Indian Creek	B	(NSF)
Little River	A	
Mira Fork	C	(NSF)
Rush Fork	C	(NSF)
West Fork Little River	B	(NSF)

FRANKLIN COUNTY		
Runnett Bag Creek	B	
Pigg River	A	(H)
FREDERICK COUNTY		
Clearbrook Lake	A	
Hogue Creek	B	
Paddy Run*	B	
Wilkins Lake	A	
FREDERICKSBURG		
Old Cossey Pond	U	
GILES COUNTY		
Big Stony Creek*	A	
Dismal Creek*	B	
Wolf Creek	A	
GRAYSON COUNTY		
Big Wilson Creek	A	
Elk Creek	A	
Fox Creek*	B	
Hales Lake*	A	
Helton Creek	B	
Middle Fox Creek	B	
GREENE COUNTY		
South River	B	
Swift Run	B	
HAMPTON CITY		
Armistead Point Park Pond	U	
HENRICO COUNTY		
Dorey Park Lake	U	
HENRY COUNTY		
Smith River (Dam)	B	
Smith River (Lower)	A	
HIGHLAND COUNTY		
Bullpasture River	A	
S. Br. Potomac River	B	
LEE COUNTY		
Hardy Creek	DH	
Indian Creek	DH	
Martins Creek	A	
North Fork Powell River	A	
LYNCHBURG CITY		
Ivy Creek Park Pond	U	
MADISON COUNTY		
Hughes River	A	
Robinson River	A	(H)
Rose River	A	(H)
MONTGOMERY COUNTY		
Craig Creek*	B	
Pandapas Pond*	A	
Poverty Creek*	C	
Toms Creek	B	
NELSON COUNTY		
Piney River	DH	
South Rockfish River	C	(NSF)
Tye River	A	
NORTON CITY		
Norton Reservoir (Upper)	A	

PAGE COUNTY		
Cub Run*	B	
Hawksbill Creek	A	(H)
Upper Passage Creek*	C	
PATRICK COUNTY		
Ararat River	B	
Clarks Creek	B	
Dan River (Above Talbott)	B	(NSF)
Dan River (Below Powerhouse)	A	
Poorhouse Creek	C	(NSF)
Rockcastle Creek	B	
Round Meadow Creek	C	(NSF)
South Mayo River (North Fork)	C	
South Mayo River (South Fork)	C	
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY		
Quantico MCB	B	(H) (NSF)
Locust Shade Park	U	
PULASKI COUNTY		
Peak Creek (town of Pulaski)	B	
Peak Creek (below Gatewood Reservoir)	B	
RICHMOND CITY		
Shield Lake	U	
ROANOKE COUNTY		
Glade Creek	A	
Roanoke River (City)	A	
Roanoke River (Green Hill Park)	DH	
Roanoke River (Salem)	A	
Roanoke River (Salem)	DH	
Tinker Creek	A	(H)
ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY		
Irish Creek*	B	
Maury River	A	
Mill Creek*	A	
South River	B	
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY		
Briery Branch Lake*	A	
Dry River	B	(NSF)
German River	C	
Hone Quarry Lake*	A	
Hone Quarry Run*	C	
North Fork Shenandoah River	B	
Silver Lake	B	
Slate Lick Lake*	B	
Slate Lick Run*	B	
South River (Grottoes)	A	
RUSSELL COUNTY		
Big Cedar Creek	A	
SCOTT COUNTY		
Bark Camp Lake*	A	(H)
Big Moccasin Creek	DH	
Big Stony Creek	B	
Little Stony Creek*	B	
Stock Creek	B	

SHENANDOAH COUNTY		
Mill Creek	B	
Passage Creek*	A	(H)
Peters Mill Creek*	C	
Stony Creek	A	
Tomahawk Pond*	B	
SMYTH COUNTY		
Comers Creek*	C	
Cressy Creek*	C	
Dickey Creek*	C	
Hurricane Creek*	C	
Middle Fork Holston River (Marion & Chilhowie)	A	(H)
Middle Fork Holston River (Upper)	B	
South Fork Holston River (Buller Dam)*	A	
South Fork Holston River (Lower)	A	
Staley Creek	A	
STAUNTON CITY		
Lake Tams	B	
TAZEWELL COUNTY		
Lake Witten	A	(H)
Laurel Creek*	C	
Lincolnshire Lake	A	(H)
Little Tumbling Creek	B	
WARREN COUNTY		
Happy Creek	B	
Passage Creek ****	DH	
WASHINGTON COUNTY		
Beartree Lake*	A	(H)
Big Brumley Creek	B	
Big Tumbling Creek	A	**
Big Tumbling Creek	CR	
Straight Branch*	C	
Tennessee Laurel	A	
Valley Creek	C	
Whitetop Laurel (Lower)*	A	
Whitetop Laurel (Upper)*	A	
WISE COUNTY		
Bear Creek Res. (Wise Res.)	B	
Clear Creek*	C	
Middle Fork Powell River	A	
Middle Fork Powell River	DH	
Pound River/N.Fk. Pound River	DH	
South Fork Powell River	A	(H)
WYTHE COUNTY		
Cripple Creek (Rt. 94)	A	
Cripple Creek (Ravens)	A	(H)
Gullion Fork Ponds*	B	
Rural Retreat Lake Pond	A	
Stoney Creek*	C	
West Fork Reed Creek*	C	