

TROUT STREAMS OF FAYETTE COUNTY

FISHING GUIDE



AN ANGLERS COMPANION TO THE PUBLIC STREAMS & RIVERS OF FAYETTE COUNTY

NORTHEAST IOWA'S HOTTEST HATCHES

Below is a month-by-month breakdown of the best hatches found in Northeast Iowa along with recommended dry and wet flies for each.

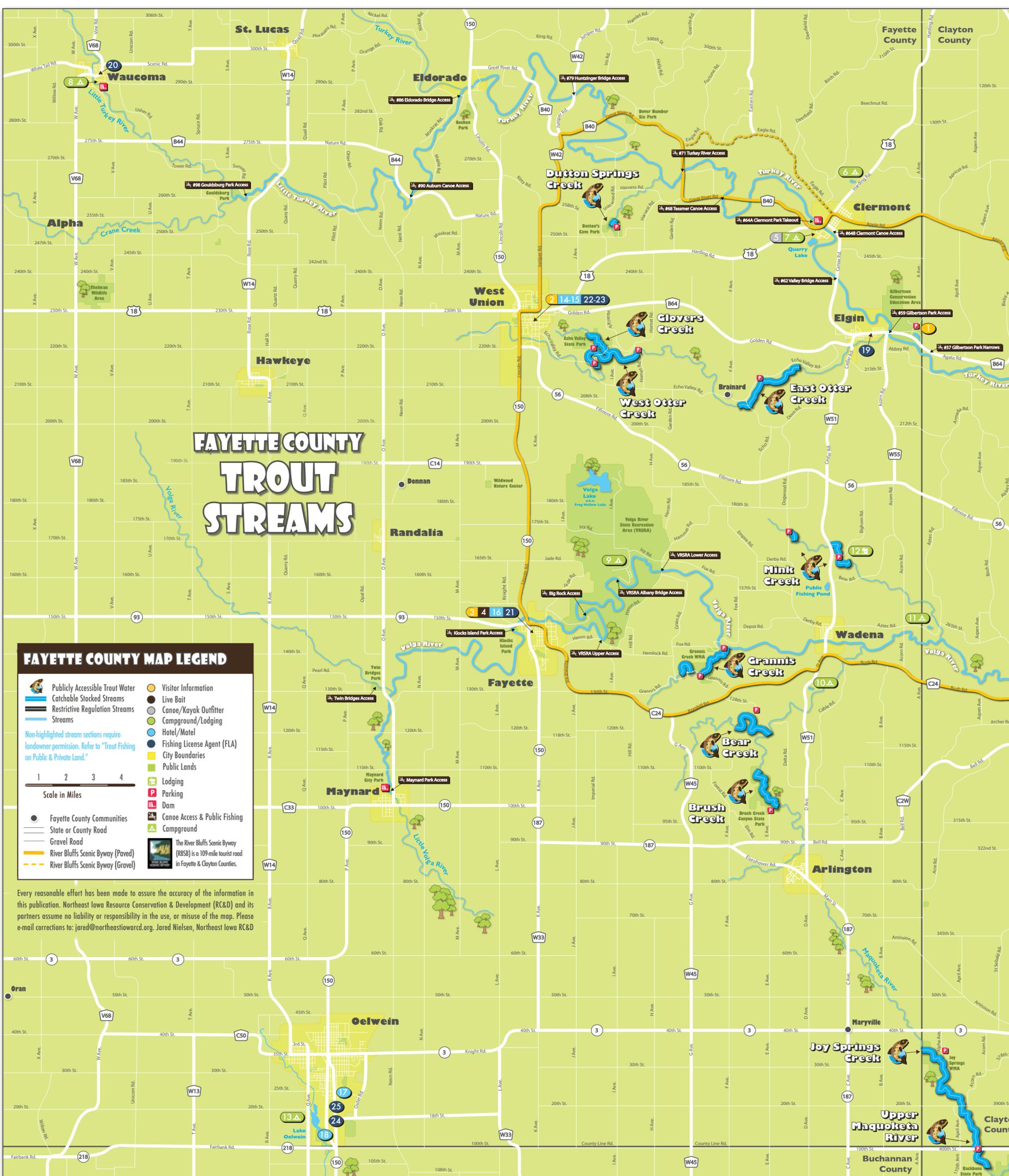
Insect hatches Prime time for fishing each insect

HATCH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	FLIES
Beetles				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	Blue Winged Olive #16-22
Caddis				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	Elk Hair Caddis #14-20
Hendrickson				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	Adams & Dark Hendrickson #12
Hexagenia					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	Adams & Brown Droke #10-12
Midges	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	Griffiths Gnat & Brassie #16-22
Scuds	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	Olive, Grey or Tan Scud #12-16
Stoneflies	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	Beadhead Prince Nymph #10-16
Sulphurs					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	March Brown & Gray Fox #14-16
Terrestrials						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	Hoppers & Crickets #10-12
Trico							■	■	■	■	■	■	White Wing Black Trico #22
Other	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	Muddler Minnow & Woollybugger #4-10

IOWA'S FISHING REGULATIONS

Below are guidelines that will be helpful when you fish Iowa. However, it is not a complete list of all fishing regulations and always be sure laws haven't changed. For more information, visit www.iowadnr.gov or contact the DNR Central Office in Des Moines at 515-725-8200.

- STREAM CLASSIFICATION.** Before you plan your trip, it is important to understand how trout waters are classified in Iowa. The trout management in Iowa divides trout fisheries into the three categories listed below. Please read each definition to gain an understanding of which stream segments contain catchable trout, are open to the public or require permission from property owners.
 - CATCHABLE STOCKED STREAMS** are open to the public and stocked regularly with catchable-sized trout that measure 10 to 12 inches in length and weigh between one-half and one pound.
 - PUT-AND-GROW STREAMS** require landowner permission to fish and are stocked with fingerlings, or young Trout that measure about 2 inches. These streams produce "stream-raised" Trout rather than ones grown to catchable-sized in rearing stations and are only stocked once a year.
 - RESTRICTIVE REGULATION (RR) STREAMS** are open to the public and can only be fished using artificial lures. Many have a catch-and-release regulation for all trout. There are no RR Streams located in Fayette County.
- IOWA'S TROUT SEASON.** Iowa's trout season differs from Minnesota, Wisconsin & Illinois in that the state offers continuous year-round fishing for brook, brown and rainbow trout.
- DAILY BAG LIMIT** The daily bag limit for trout is five and the possession limit is 10.
- FISHING LICENSES & Trout STAMPS.** Anglers who fish for trout are required to pay the trout fee in addition to an Iowa fishing license. Both expire each year in January. However, children under 16 years of age may fish for free and possess trout if they fish with a licensed adult who has paid the current trout fee and they limit their combined catch to the day limit of five trout. If young anglers want to fish for and keep their own limit of trout, they only need to purchase the trout fee.



FAYETTE COUNTY MAP LEGEND

- Publicly Accessible Trout Water
- Catchable Stocked Streams
- Restrictive Regulation Streams
- Streams
- Visitor Information
- Live Bait
- Canoe/Kayak Outfitter
- Campground/Lodging
- Hotel/Motel
- Fishing License Agent (FLA)
- City Boundaries
- Public Lands
- Lodging
- Parking
- Dam
- Canoe Access & Public Fishing
- Campground

Non-highlighted stream sections require landowner permission. Refer to "Trout Fishing on Public & Private Land."

Scale in Miles: 1 2 3 4

Fayette County Communities: Fayette, West Union, Wadena, Oelwein, Maynard, Dutton Springs, Hawkeye, Waucoma, Eldorado, Fayette, Maynard, Oelwein, Wadena, Arlington, Maryville, Joy Springs, Upper Maquoketa River, Buchanan County.

State or County Road: US-150, US-18, US-56, US-13, US-218, US-219, US-220, US-221, US-222, US-223, US-224, US-225, US-226, US-227, US-228, US-229, US-230, US-231, US-232, US-233, US-234, US-235, US-236, US-237, US-238, US-239, US-240, US-241, US-242, US-243, US-244, US-245, US-246, US-247, US-248, US-249, US-250, US-251, US-252, US-253, US-254, US-255, US-256, US-257, US-258, US-259, US-260, US-261, US-262, US-263, US-264, US-265, US-266, US-267, US-268, US-269, US-270, US-271, US-272, US-273, US-274, US-275, US-276, US-277, US-278, US-279, US-280, US-281, US-282, US-283, US-284, US-285, US-286, US-287, US-288, US-289, US-290, US-291, US-292, US-293, US-294, US-295, US-296, US-297, US-298, US-299, US-300, US-301, US-302, US-303, US-304, US-305, US-306, US-307, US-308, US-309, US-310, US-311, US-312, US-313, US-314, US-315, US-316, US-317, US-318, US-319, US-320, US-321, US-322, US-323, US-324, US-325, US-326, US-327, US-328, US-329, US-330, US-331, US-332, US-333, US-334, US-335, 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WELCOME TO IOWA'S TROUT COUNTRY



Fayette County is home to 10 spring-fed creeks that comprise over 13 miles of fishable water. Located in the heart of Iowa's trout region, Fayette County's tranquil landscape is home to some of the most popular trout fishing destinations in Iowa. Anglers are attracted to this area for its high concentration of prime trout waters, fish counts, trout stocking plants and year-round opportunities to catch brook, brown and rainbow trout. Iowa DNR efforts have also contributed to making this region of the state a world-class trout fishery. On average, the Iowa DNR stocks approximately 31,000 catchable trout into catchable stocked streams within Fayette County from April 1 - October 31. Of the stocked catchable trout, approximately 83 percent are rainbows and 17 percent are brooks. The Iowa DNR also stocks over 13,000 fingerlings in streams with public-owned access. Public streams stocked with fingerlings in Fayette County include Brush Creek, Otter Creek and Glovers Creek. In addition, excess brook trout, or adult trout that typically measure between 14 and 24 inches in length and weigh anywhere from two to eight pounds, are released into streams each year. For more information about Iowa's stocking season, including a list of the streams that are scheduled for stocking, call the Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324, stocking hotline at 563-927-5736 or visit the DNR website at www.iowadnr.gov.

TROUT FISHING PLACES OF INTEREST

- GILBERTSON CONSERVATION EDUCATION AREA.** Nature center with campground and access to the Turkey River and fishing pond. 563-426-5740. 22580 A Ave, Elgin
- FAYETTE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.** Visitor center that can help with questions about where to eat, stay and shop. 800-477-5073. 101 N Vine St, West Union
- FAYETTE COUNTY TOURISM CENTER.** Visitor center that can help with questions about where to eat, stay and shop. 563-422-5073. 606 Water St, Fayette
- FAYETTE HARDWARE.** Hardware store with live bait, fishing equipment and tackle. 563-425-3605. 222 S Main St, Fayette
- SKIP-A-WAY J.R.'S CANOE RENTAL.** Rent canoes, kayaks and tubes. Shuttle service is also available. 563-523-7338. 3825 Harding Rd, Clermont
- HERITAGE HILL CAMPGROUND.** 60 RV campsites with fishing pond located 2 miles from the Turkey River. 563-419-8534. 26411 Harding Rd, Clermont
- SKIP-A-WAY RESORT.** 172 RV campsites with restaurant, swimming beach and 18-acre lake for fishing. 563-423-7338. 3825 Harding Rd, Clermont
- TURKEY RIVER CAMPGROUND.** 20 RV campsites located next to the Little Turkey River. 319-334-0135. 206 3rd St SE, Waucoma
- VOLGA RIVER STATE RECREATION AREA.** 5,750-acre area with 75 campsites and a lake with boat ramp and fishing piers. 563-425-4161. 10225 Ivy Rd, Fayette
- DEER RIDGE CAMPGROUND.** RV campground with stocked fishing pond and playground near Bear Creek. 563-774-2067. 13762 D Ave, Wadena
- RIVER VALLEY CAMPGROUND.** 40 remote campsites with 3-acre fishing lake near Mink Creek. 563-379-3963. 1472 147th St, Wadena
- MINK CREEK LODGE.** Family built lodge located within walking distance from Mink Creek. 563-774-3055. 16724 Big Horn Rd, Wadena
- LAKE SHORE RV RESORT & CAMPGROUND.** 85 RV campsites located next to Lake Oelwein. 319-283-5234. 1418 Q Ave, Oelwein
- BEST REST INN & SUITES.** 48 room hotel near Glovers Creek and West Otter Creek. 563-422-3841. 705 IA-150, West Union
- BOARDERS INN & SUITES.** 41 room hotel near Grannis, Bear and Brush Creek. 563-425-0214. 515 1/2 W Water St, Fayette
- SUPER 8.** 39 room hotel near Joy Springs Creek and the Upper Maquoketa River. 319-283-2888. 210 10th St SE, Oelwein
- PARKVIEW MOTEL.** 35 unit motel near Joy Springs Creek and the Upper Maquoketa River. 319-283-3622. 2508 S Frederick Ave, Oelwein
- STRAHM HARDWARE.** Hardware store that sells fishing tackle, equipment, and fishing licenses. FLA. 563-426-5838. 249 Center St, Elgin
- THE RIVERSIDE BAR & GRILL.** Restaurant that sells fishing licenses. FLA. 563-776-4971. 102 Riverview Dr, Waucoma
- PHILLIPS 66.** Convenience store that sells fishing licenses. FLA. 563-425-3008. 551 W Water St, Fayette
- FAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE.** Fishing licenses may be purchased at the County Records office. FLA. 563-422-3687. 114 N Vine St, West Union
- WEST UNION HARDWARE.** Hardware store that sells live bait, fishing tackle, equipment and fishing licenses. FLA. 563-422-5646. 301 IA-150, West Union
- KMART.** Department store that sells apparel, equipment and fishing licenses. FLA. 319-283-4931. 2105 S Frederick Ave, Oelwein
- SHOPKO.** Department store that sells fishing gear, apparel, equipment and fishing licenses. FLA. 319-283-4962. 1345 S Frederick St, Oelwein

TURKEY RIVER RECREATIONAL CORRIDOR

The Turkey River Corridor is unique in its geographic size and potential. The communities of Clermont, Elgin and Eldakar in Fayette and Clayton Counties are linked by the special, scenic beauty of the Turkey River. The streams and rivers within the corridor are lush with trout fishing opportunities for both amateur and experienced anglers. Website: www.turkeyrivercorridor.com



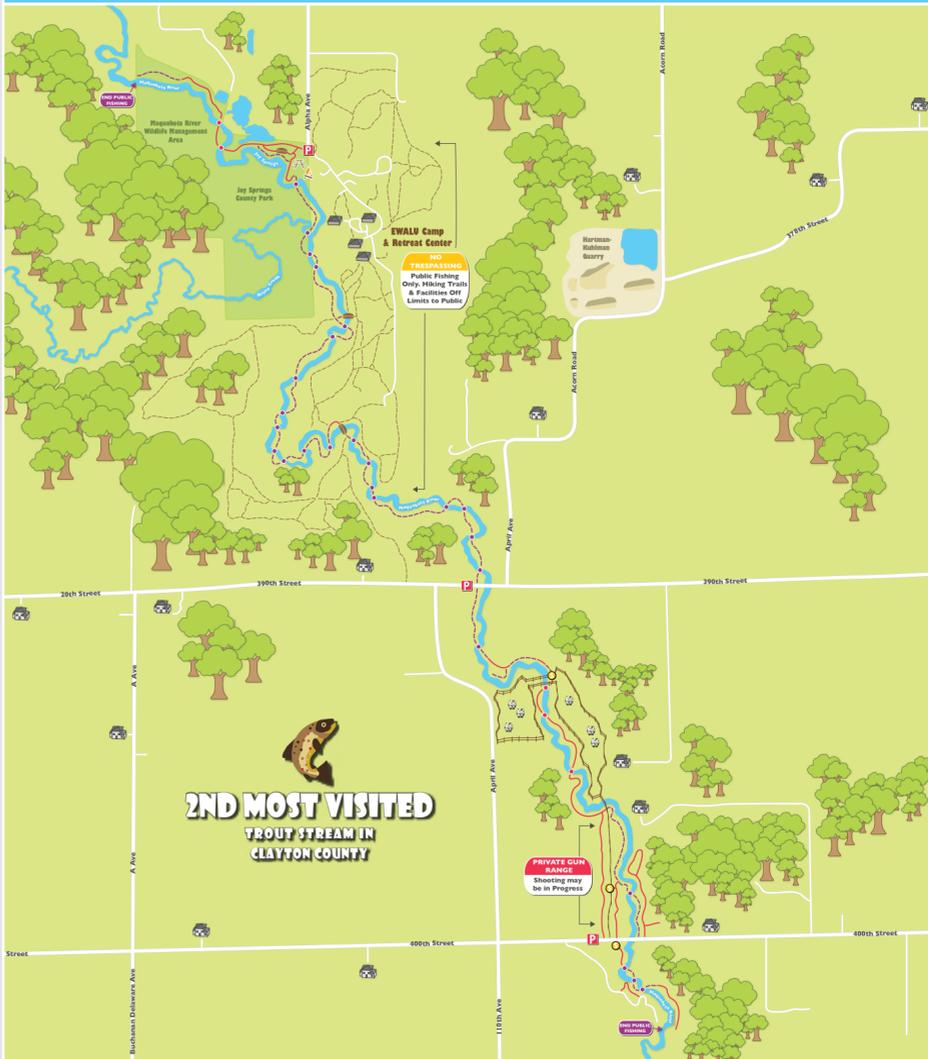
TROUT FISHING ON PUBLIC & PRIVATE LAND



Anglers may fish in waters found on public land such as Iowa State Forests, Parks, and Wildlife Management Areas. In the Driftless region, many of the trout streams flow through private land. Furthermore, in Iowa, the landowner also owns the streambed. So even if the stream is accessible from public access points, anglers still need permission to fish private property. On private property, two systems allow the opportunity for public fishing.

- **THE "HANDSHAKE AGREEMENT"** is simply a verbal agreement between the landowner and the state, allowing public fishing. On private property where a verbal agreement is in place, one will frequently see white signs which read, "Private Property. Public Fishing Only." Wooden ladder stiles, allowing one to easily cross over a fence, may also be present. However, the owner ultimately decides if these indicators to public fishing are allowed on the property.
- The second system is the **ANGLER CONSERVATION EASEMENT** that allows public fishing, fish stocking by the DNR, and habitat improvement on the stream. The easement consists of a corridor of 75 feet on both sides of the center line of the stream; therefore, the corridor moves as the stream changes direction. This allows continual access to the stream. Gray or dark blue signs reading "Open for Public Fishing - Stream Easement Area" have been posted on private property where an easement is present.
- **IF IN DOUBT**, and neither sign is present, stay out or ask the landowner for permission. There are plenty of fishing opportunities in the region.

2 & 3. JOY SPRINGS CREEK AND THE UPPER MAQUOKETA RIVER



LENGTH & TROUT: 4.5 miles of stream with Brook, Brown & Rainbow Trout
DESCRIPTION: The Upper Maquoketa River watershed begins north of Highway 3 near the town of Arlington, with the coldwater reach beginning where springs enter the river at Joy Springs Park. Contained within this 90-acre public area of rolling forestland is a large shelter, restrooms and five primitive campsites. There are also 0.8 miles of easily accessible trout water. Following the Maquoketa River south of Joy Springs County Park, public fishing easements provide anglers with downstream access for another 3.7 miles. However, much of this acreage is remote and requires considerable effort to fish. Anglers must be within 75 feet from the center line of the stream to stay within angler easements, which may require some wading and travel through dense riparian vegetation and crumbling stream banks. If you are planning to fish the 2-mile stream section from Joy Springs County Park to 390th Street, please respect Ewalu Camp & Retreat Center's private property rights by avoiding all hiking trails and site facilities. Before gearing up for your fishing trip, it's also helpful to know that the Maquoketa River is sand-bedded with some segments having sparse habitat, so anglers often concentrate their effort near fallen trees, channel constrictions, and rock features that provide habitat for trout. Most of the Maquoketa River corridor is forested and easiest to fish with spin gear, but there are pastured segments and open sections that are good for fly fishing—most notably, the 0.5 mile section of river north of 400th Street that begins at the far end of the gun range and includes the open pasture between both areas where barbed wire fences cross the stream. Here, extensive conservation efforts to restore the river's natural shape and flow have included streambank reshaping and stabilization efforts. Rock weirs, or channel spanning rock structures, have also been installed to create pools, then riffles and a run of faster water to replicate ideal trout habitat. Though some anglers utilize the trail that crosses through the gun range to access this 0.5 mile section of the Maquoketa River, there is a trailhead sign next to the road that declaims "STOP AND READ! - If this gate is open or this sign is uncovered, then target shooting is in progress...At this point to gain entry you must honk your horn three (3) times. If no response from shooters, then STAY OUT!!" Anglers should also note that the 0.2 miles of easily accessible trout water south of the 400th Street bridge is closed every December during deer hunting season. The Maquoketa River is stocked regularly with catchable rainbow and brook trout from April to October and annually with stream-reared fingerling brown trout in May.

4 & 5. GLOVERS CREEK AND WEST OTTER CREEK (ECHO VALLEY STATE PARK)



LENGTH & TROUT: 1.8 mile stream with Brook, Brown & Rainbow Trout
DESCRIPTION: Echo Valley State Park located east of West Union is a beautiful natural area that includes two trout streams running through the park: Glovers and Otter Creek. Originally built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's, the park contains many hand-built historical structures such as a dam, keystone archway, lime kiln, and shelter house. The historical park also features a 2.5-mile long gravel based trail known as the Echo Valley Environmental Natural Trail that runs parallel to and provides access along Otter Creek. Both Otter and Glovers Creek are stocked annually with fingerling brown trout (Glovers receives 5,000 and Otter 6,000). Glovers is stocked weekly April through October with catchable 10-12 inch rainbow and brook trout, but Otter Creek gets too warm for stocking in July and August. Both streams offer many easy access points to the stream for anglers with limited mobility and are set within a beautiful limestone bluff backdrop. Stream-side paths (BYOT) will draw more adventurous anglers toward less-fished, even more scenic areas. Anglers may use a variety of baits to fish the deeper holes, as the occasional trout exceeding 20 inches may be caught. On warmer afternoons and early mornings, fish can be seen rising to hatches of stoneflies, midges, mayflies.



1. DUTTON SPRINGS CREEK



LENGTH & TROUT: 0.27 mile stream with Brook Trout
DESCRIPTION: Dutton's Cave County Park is a 46-acre public area located 3.5 miles northeast of West Union. A large cave at the base of the park's 50-foot vertical limestone wall serves as both the park's main attraction and the origin of Dutton Springs Creek, which was discovered by Lorenzo Dutton in 1848. From the cave, a mowed path follows the stream segment 0.27 miles through a heavily wooded ravine and past both picnic and playground facilities. The spring run has limited reproduction of native brook trout and supplemental stocking occurs as needed. While trout population numbers are low, anglers can delight in pursuing Iowa's only surviving native brook trout, which are periodically stocked from South Pine Creek in Winneshiek County. A campground with water, primitive sites, and two electric-hookup sites is located above the cave and is accessed by gravel road. The cave itself, and the hiking trail between the campground and cave are now closed in order to prevent people from accidentally spreading White-Nose Syndrome, a fungal disease that decimates North American bat populations.

6. GRANNIS CREEK



LENGTH & TROUT: 1.5 mile stream with Brook, Brown & Rainbow Trout
DESCRIPTION: Grannis Creek runs through both public and private property and is open to fishing only. It empties into the Volga River just a few short miles downstream of the Volga River State Recreation Area. Plenty of stream-reared brown trout in the 9 to 12-inch range await the angler, and a few fish over 15 inches may challenge the unwary. It is stocked weekly from April through October with catchable rainbow and brook trout. Anglers will find a great deal of habitat improvements along the stream, so finding a good hole or bank hide to fish won't be a problem. Improvements to the stream's watershed include one mile of terraces, 18 sediment and water control basins, 3 grade stabilization structures and the installation of "lunker hides" for trout. Bank access along the MT sections of the stream is easy, while the BYOT section located between the Grannis Creek Wildlife Management Areas is challenging to access due to vegetation, undercut banks, 6-foot-high silt banks and deadfalls. For universal stream access, anglers can find a small paved sidewalk near the upstream parking lot along Grannis Road. Mayfly, midge, gnats, and caddis flies are common insects in these areas.

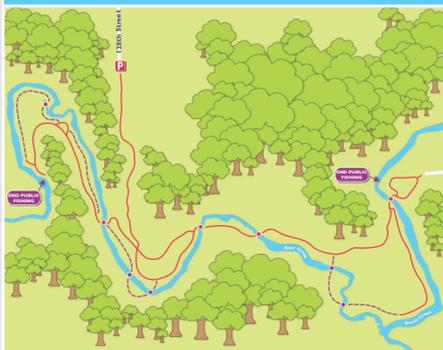


7. EAST OTTER CREEK



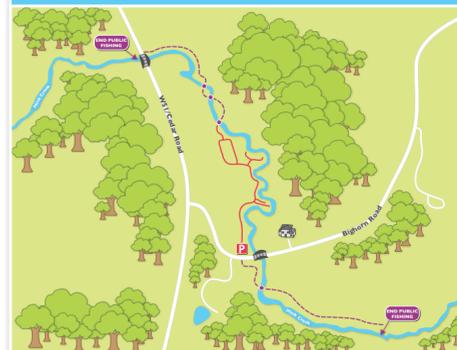
LENGTH & TROUT: 1 mile stream with Brook, Brown & Rainbow Trout
DESCRIPTION: The trout waters of Otter Creek start at the dramatic cliffs in Echo Valley State Park and run more than 9 miles to the town of Elgin. A fishable downstream section known as East Otter Creek is located 6 miles west of town at the intersection of Dove and Echo Valley Road. Although this river segment is considered a warm-water stream, 10-12 inch catchable brook and rainbow trout are stocked weekly during the months of April, May, June, September and October. A popular fishing spot includes the easily accessible slow moving deep pool adjacent to the Echo Valley Road parking access. This location is easy to walk along and in an open enough space for fly-casting.

8. BEAR CREEK



LENGTH & TROUT: 1.2 mile stream with Brook & Rainbow Trout
DESCRIPTION: Located 6 miles southeast of Fayette, Bear Creek is a fairly large stream that is accessible by completing a 1/2 mile downhill walk. Once you arrive at the stream, you find yourself immersed in a beautiful valley with clear water and steep wooded ridges on either side. Bear Creek is not a coldwater stream and does not support trout populations most summers. However, it is stocked weekly in April, May, June, September and October with catchable 10-12 inch brook and rainbow trout. Lots of chubs and assorted panfish may also be caught. Access to the stream at certain times of the year may be difficult due to overgrown vegetation making hip or chest waders preferred.

9. MINK CREEK



LENGTH & TROUT: 0.9 mile stream with Brook, Brown & Rainbow Trout
DESCRIPTION: Mink Creek is a spring fed tributary of the Volga River that flows in a southeasterly direction as it winds through mowed pasture, farmland, and tree plantings. The accessible trout water is entirely on private property and is open to public fishing through permanent easement agreements. The mowed trail section between W51/ Cedar Road to Bighorn Road provides anglers with the best fishing access. Although this is a warm-water stream, don't hesitate to check it out. A reproducing wild brown trout population is present. Mink Creek is also stocked weekly from April through October with catchable 10-12-inch rainbow and brook trout.

10. BRUSH CREEK



LENGTH & TROUT: 1.6 mile stream with Brown Trout
DESCRIPTION: Brush Creek Canyon State Preserve exemplifies the dramatic landscape of a prominent ridge extending through northeast Iowa known as the Silurian Escarpment. Dedicated as a biological and geological state preserve in 1968, this 217-acre preserve features steep slopes and exposed bedrock formed by 150-foot-tall outcrops of Silurian dolomite. Access to this stream is challenging, as it is at the bottom of a steep valley, but is well worth the effort. This restricted regulation fishery (catch-and-release) contains deep pools and runs filled with stream-reared brown trout maintained through an annual stocking of fingerling fish.

11. TURKEY RIVER



LENGTH & TROUT: 98 mile water trail with Brook, Brown and Rainbow Trout
DESCRIPTION: The Turkey River Water Trail begins at Gouldsburg Park in Fayette County, merges with the Turkey River near Eldorado, and flows southeast through Fayette and Clayton Counties towards the Mississippi River. The water trail features high-quality fishing opportunities, with over 74 species of fish documented in the watershed. If targeting trout, all three species may be caught wherever coldwater tributaries enter the river. However, many consider one of the best stretches of fishable water to be the five-mile section from Clermont Canoe Access #64B to Gilbertson Park Narrows #57. Another popular spot is located 10 miles northwest of Elkader in Clayton County at the Big Spring Rearing Station. Here, anglers have access to trails along the river, a trout pond open for public fishing, and a kids fishing pond for young anglers 15 and under. Trout are stocked in the Turkey River three times a week including most Saturdays from April 1 through the end of October. The hatchery grounds are open to the public 7 days a week year-round.

TROUT GUIDE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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IOWA'S TROUT FAMILY



TROUT STREAM MAP LEGEND

- Roads
- Mowed Trail (MT)
- Blaze Your Own Trail (BYOT)
- Parking Access
- Campground
- Road Bridge
- Shelter
- Spring/Waterfall
- Fire Pit
- Residential House
- Cow Pasture
- Playground
- Hiking Trail
- MT Stream Crossing
- BYOT Stream Crossing
- Public Restroom
- Pedestrian Bridge
- Picnic Area
- Stream
- Trout Site
- Universal Access
- Livestock Fence
- Bike Trail