



## Iowa Trout Family

**Rainbow Trout**

Have a prominent pink-red horizontal stripe along each side, reddish-brown dorsal and anal fins. First one marked with many small black spots. Introduced into Iowa streams from populations originating in the western United States.

**Brook Trout**

The only trout species native to Iowa. The top portion of a brook's snout is light, sometimes merging to a darker background. V-shaped white spots on the head and body are confined to lower fins.

**Brown Trout**

Brownish in color, standing to yellow or reddish-yellow. Typically have large spots on their sides that may be surrounded by light-colored blotches and may extend from Europe to the United States.

### 2020 Fishing License and Permit Fees

You must pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. Children under 16 years of age may fish for 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 daily fee of five trout. These young anglers can fish for and keep their own limit of trout if they pay their own trout fee.

Resident	Annual 16 years old and older	\$22
3-Year	\$62	
7-Day	\$15.50	
1-Day	\$10.50	
Trout Fee	\$14.50	
Lifetime 65 years old and older	\$61.50	

Nonresident	Annual 16 years old and older	\$48
7-Day	\$37.50	
3-Day	\$20.50	
1-Day	\$12	
Trout Fee	\$17.50	



## Welcome to Iowa Trout Country!

**Stocking Hotline:**  
563-927-5736  
**Website:**  
[www.iowadnr.gov/trout](http://www.iowadnr.gov/trout)

**Big Spring Trout Hatchery**  
563-245-2446

**Chuck Gipp Decorah Fish Hatchery**  
563-382-8324

**Manchester Trout Hatchery**  
563-927-3276

### CATCHABLE TROUT STREAMS

The Iowa DNR stocks 300,000 to 400,000 trout from April 1 through late autumn. More than 600 extra brood trout, weighing over 2 pounds each, are also released in small numbers into each stream.

The catchable stocking program uses rainbow trout. The number of fish stocked into each area varies, depending on length of the stream and how many anglers use the area. These criteria also determine how often each area is stocked.

Surveys show there are still good numbers of trout several days after the most recent stocking and throughout the winter. Along with the stocked trout, many areas have good to excellent numbers of wild brown trout that challenge even the best anglers. Brown trout over 20 inches are possible.

Learn more about Iowa's trout program on our website at [www.iowadnr.gov/trout](http://www.iowadnr.gov/trout).



### WHERE CAN I FISH FOR TROUT?

Iowa trout streams are on both public and private lands. Private lands open to public fishing will be marked with grey "Open for Public Fishing" or white "Public Fishing Only" signs. Public-owned fishing areas are typically well-marked with green "Public Hunting" or brown "Park" signs.

The Iowa DNR buys conservation easements along some streams from willing landowners to provide public trout fishing on privately-owned land. Angler Conservation Easements along private trout streams protect water resources, restore fish habitat and provide access for public fishing. These easements are an important partnership with participating landowners.

Over 16 miles of Northeast Iowa trout streams are conserved by easements. Your cooperation helps protect these "Trout Trails" and allows the public to fish as guests of the landowner.

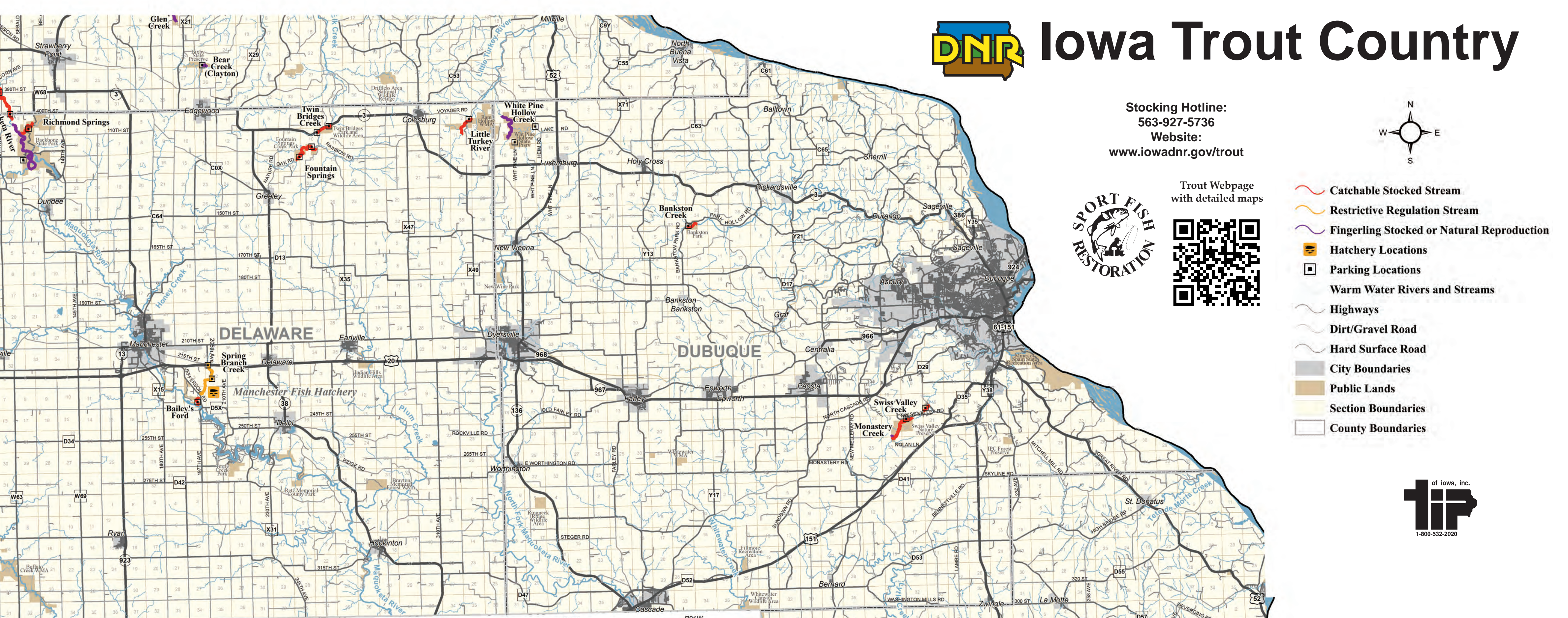
### TROUT FISHING TIPS

**GEAR** – A light-action spinning rod or fly rod works best. Do not use line that is heavier than 6 pound test. For a fly rod, use a tapered leader with 1 to 4 pound test tippet. Use polarized glasses to help you see into the water to find fish and likely fish-holding habitat. Wear rubber boots to keep you dry.

**PRESENTATION** – Trout are easily spooked, making them hard to catch. Go up to the stream cautiously; when the water is clear, you may need to kneel or crawl so you are less visible. Cast up stream toward the habitat where trout may be hiding.

**TERMINAL TACKLE** – You can catch trout with a variety of natural food items like nightcrawlers, worms and minnows. Try also cheese, sweet corn, synthetic baits, marshmallows and salmon eggs, or artificial lures like crankbaits and spinners. When fly fishing, use imitations of aquatic insects like mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies and midges. Terrestrial insects like grasshoppers, crickets and ants can be effective in the summer.

**MATCH THE HATCH** (left), has pictures of various natural food items and the corresponding lures that imitate each. Select lures or flies that match the size, shape and color of the items that trout are currently feeding on.



- ### CATCH AND RELEASE TIPS
- Land and release the fish quickly.
  - Handle the fish as little as possible. Use forceps or needle-nose pliers to help you gently remove the hook.
  - Firmly grasp, but don't squeeze, any trout you handle. Never put your fingers inside the gill covers or in the eye sockets.
  - Turn the fish upside down to remove hooks.
  - If the fish is hooked deeply, cut the line as close to the fish's mouth as possible and leave the hook.
  - Consider using only flies or artificial lures if you plan to release many or all the trout you catch.



### IOWA'S WILD TROUT

During the past 20 years, Northeast Iowa has seen a dramatic increase in the miles of stream that support populations of trout fully sustained through natural reproduction. Over 75 streams now have some level of natural reproduction and provide an excellent opportunity for anglers to pursue wild trout.

These increases occurred as watersheds were improved, in-stream habitat was installed, improved trout genetics were used, and Iowa had an extended period of above average annual rainfall.

Brook trout from South Pine Creek are the only known population of native Iowa brook trout. In 1995, Iowa DNR staff started to spawn trout from South Pine Creek to restore populations in other Northeast Iowa coldwater streams.

Adult brown trout are collected from the wild and are spawned. Their offspring are stocked as fingerlings into coldwater streams with suitable water temperatures and habitat conditions. Many populations of naturally reproducing brown trout have been established in Northeast Iowa streams using this stocking approach.

Iowa's put-and-grow streams support wild trout fisheries or are stocked with fingerling brown trout. These streams are on private property - you need permission from the landowner to fish them.

Fingerling trout are also stocked into streams open to public fishing.

Find a list of wild trout streams open to public fishing on our website at [www.iowadnr.gov/trout](http://www.iowadnr.gov/trout).

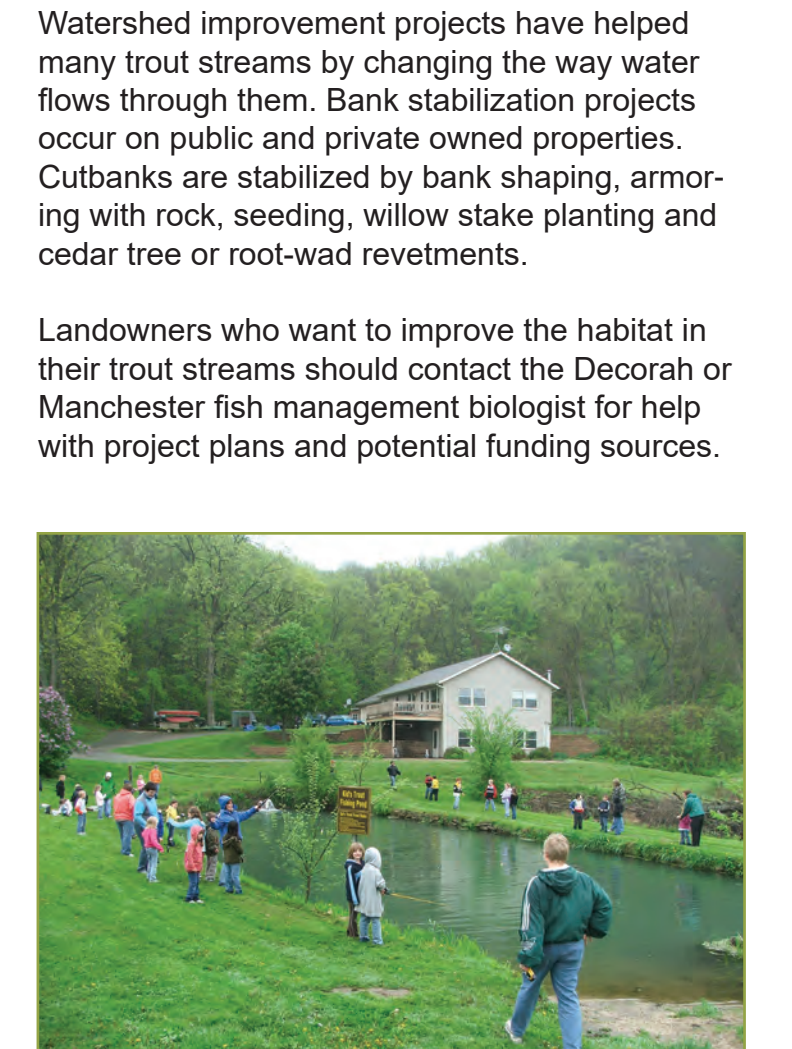
### IMPROVING TROUT STREAM FISHING

Fisheries staff play an active role in trout stream projects to improve and maintain quality water and habitat that benefit both trout and trout anglers.

Successful water quality improvement projects are led by groups and communities that partner with the Iowa DNR to create and implement long-term plans to improve the land and water. Using conservation practices on the land upstream is key to help stop sediment, nutrients and bacteria from getting into the stream.

Watershed improvement projects have helped many trout streams by changing the way water flows through them. Bank stabilization projects occur on public and private owned properties. Cutbanks are stabilized by bank shaping, arming with rock, seeding, willow stake planting and cedar tree or root-wad revetments.

Landowners who want to improve the habitat in their trout streams should contact the Decorah or Manchester fish management biologist for help with project plans and potential funding sources.



### KIDS' TROUT FISHING PONDS

Kids (15 years and younger) have their own trout fishing ponds at Big Spring Hatchery and Bellevue Station. These ponds offer a safe and easy spot for young anglers to learn the basics of fishing, with an excellent chance to reel in their first trout and earn a First Fish Award. A limited number of fishing poles and basic tackle are available for kids to use. All kids must be with a properly licensed adult (fishing license + trout privilege). There is a two trout limit per day, which includes trout caught and released. Artificial tackle is recommended for kids planning to catch and release fish.

### RESTRICTIVE REGULATION STREAMS

(streams marked in orange on map)

Portions of nine streams have special regulations for trout. There is a 14-inch minimum length limit on all trout species in upper Spring Branch and on brown trout in the middle segment of Bloody Run. There is a catch and release regulation for all trout on Ensign and Hewett Creeks, McCloud Run, South Pine Creek, and the lower part of Waterloo Creek. There is a catch and release regulation for brown trout on French Creek and the West Fork of French Creek. There is a catch and release regulation for brook trout on Casey Springs, Falcon Springs and Creek. All stream segments with special regulations are posted with signs that describe the regulation. Only artificial lures are allowed in all stream sections with restrictive regulations.



County	Easy access available	Universal access	Stream (*Permanent angler access easements are on portions of streams)	Wild B=brown K=brook R=rainbow	Catchables Stocked by B=Big Spring D=Decorah M=Manchester NS=Not Stocked ♦=Not Stocked July/August	Camping E=Electric N=Non-elec. P=Primitive, no facilities	Restrictive Regulations (Streams are artificial lure only)	Trout Stocked R=rainbow K=brook B=brown		Location Lat/Lon Coordinates in decimal degree using map datum WGS84 and indicate parking lot or site
								Catchable	Fingerling	
Clayton			Bear Creek (Bixby)		NS					42.675072 / -91.400427
			Joy Springs*		M	P		R	B	42.676666 / -91.596722
			Maquoketa River*		M			R	B	42.643976 / -91.579794
			Mossy Glen		B	NS				
Delaware	♦	♿	Bailey's Ford	B	M	E/N		R		42.447789 / -91.410252
	♦		Fountain Springs	B	M	P		R		42.618064 / -91.301048
			Little Turkey River	B	M	P		R		42.634472 / -91.155289
	♦	♿	Richmond Springs	B	M	E/N		R		42.635670 / -91.560953
	♦		Spring Branch*	B	M		14-inch min.	R		42.461033 / -91.397409
Dubuque	♦		Twin Bridges	B	M	E/N		R		42.631350 / -91.285079
	♦		Bankston Creek	B	M	P		R		42.558286 / -90.954971
			Monastery Creek		NS				B	42.423057 / -90.758802
	♦		Swiss Valley (Lower)	M	♦	E/N		R		42.429667 / -90.741139
			Swiss Valley (Upper)	B	M			R		42.423057 / -90.758802
Jackson			White Pine Hollow		NS				B	42.628429 / -91.094124
			Bellevue Kids' Pond		M	♦		R		42.249979 / -90.418336
			Big Mill Creek	B	M	P		R		42.270402 / -90.523846
			Brush Creek		M	♦		R		42.177465 / -90.578167
	♦		Bellevue Kids' Pond		M	♦	P	R		42.037154 / -90.371894
			Little Mill Creek	B	M	P		R		42.249197 / -90.476612
Linn			Mill Creek		M			R		42.253686 / -90.431024
			South Fork Mill Creek	B	NS	P				42.270402 / -90.523846
(not on map)			McCloud Run		NS		catch&release		R B K	42.012427 / -91.665362
			McCloud Run flows adjacent to I-380 between Collins Road and Shaver Road in Cedar Rapids.							

Sign up today for free, weekly trout fishing reports emailed directly to your inbox. [www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/Fishing-Reports](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/Fishing-Reports)



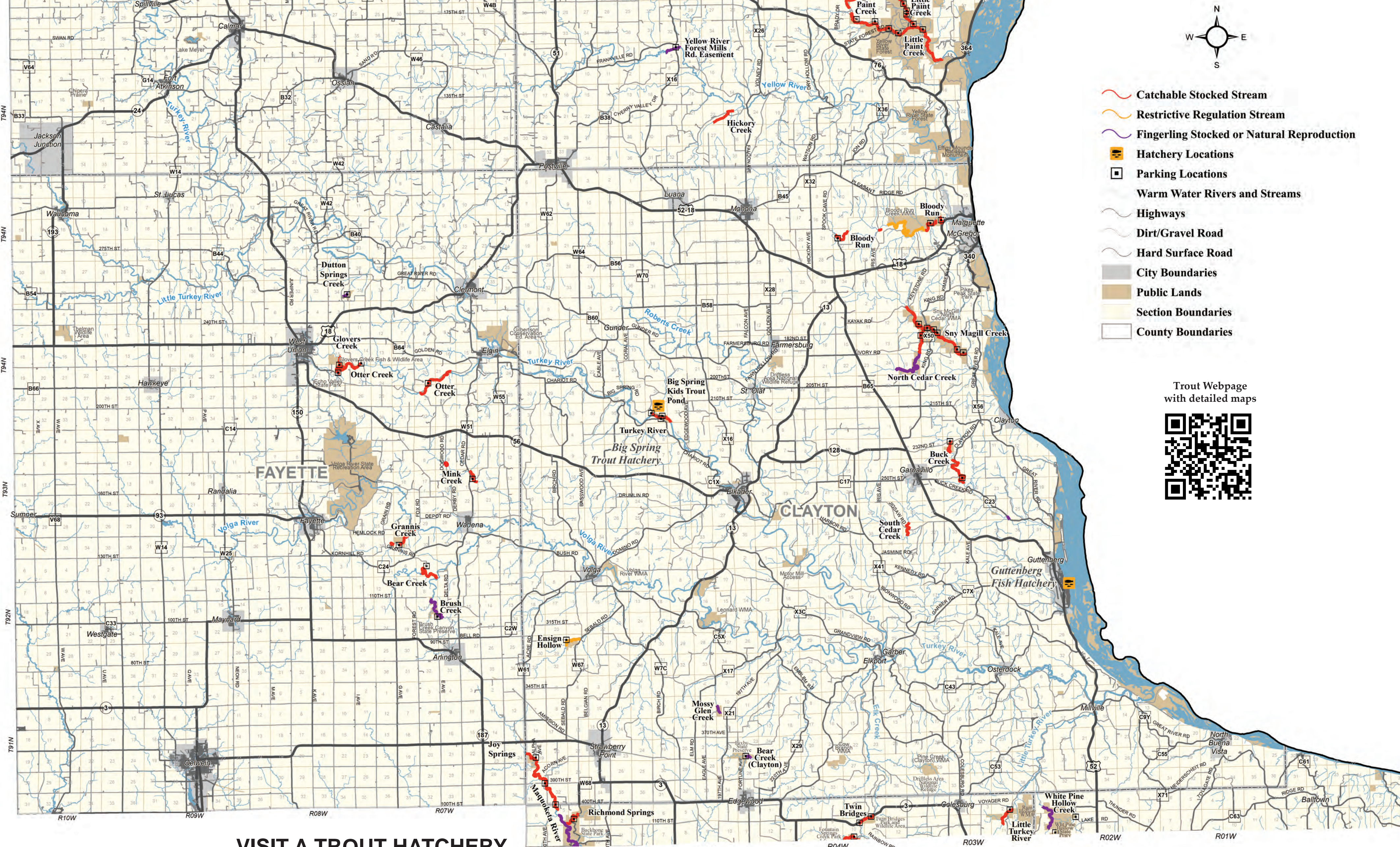
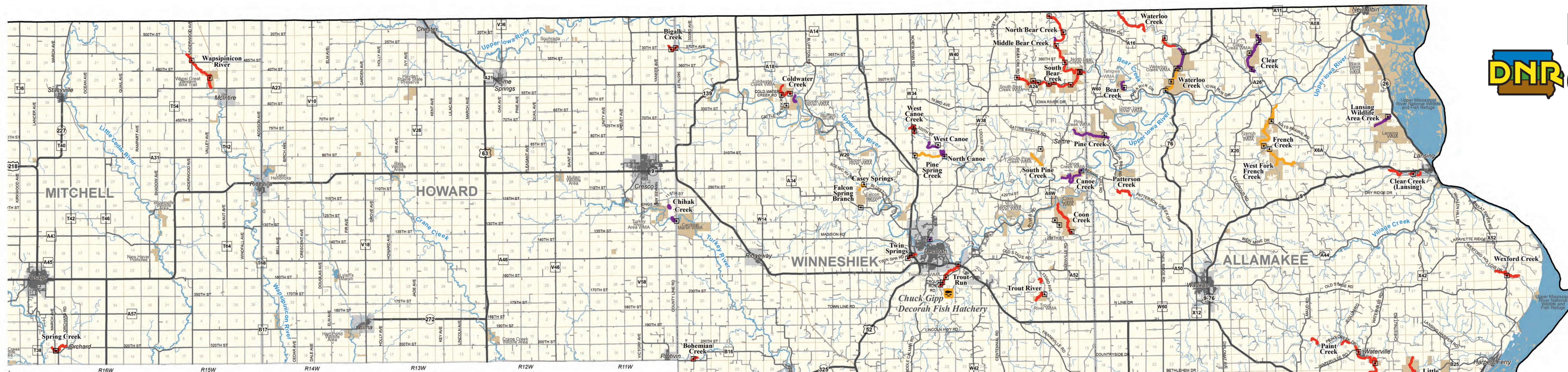
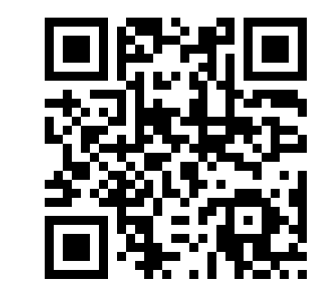
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Website:  
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- Catchable Stocked Stream
- Restrictive Regulation Stream
- Fingerling Stocked or Natural Reproduction
- Parking Locations
- Hatchery Locations
- Warm Water Rivers and Streams
- Highways
- Dirt/Gravel Road
- Hard Surface Road
- City Boundaries
- Public Lands
- Section Boundaries
- County Boundaries

Trout Webpage with detailed maps



County	Easy access available	Universal access	Stream (*Permanent angler access easements are on portions of streams)	Wild B=brook K=brook R=rainbow	Catchables Stocked by D=Decorah B=Big Spring M=Manchester NS=Not Stocked ◆=Not Stocked July/August	Camping E=Electric N=Non-elec. P=Primitive, no facilities	Restrictive Regulations (Streams are artificial lure only) B=Brown Trout Only K=Brook Trout Only	Trout Stocked		Location Lat/Lon Coordinates in decimal degree using map datum WGS84 and indicate lowest parking lot or site
								R=rainbow B=brook K=brook	Catchable Fingerling	
Allamakee	◆		Bear Creek	B	NS	P			R	43.43554 / -91.56596
			Clear Creek (Lansing)	B	B					43.358781 / -91.237809
			Clear Creek	B	NS	P				43.448879 / -91.420057
			French Creek	B K	NS	P	catch&release [B]			43.408171 / -91.398724
			Hickory Creek	B	B				R	43.117625 / -91.406520
			Lansing Wildlife Area Creek	B K	NS	P				43.40709 / -91.26553
	◆	♿	Little Paint	B K	B	N			R	43.183944 / -91.236129
	◆	♿	Paint Creek	B	B	N			R	43.171122 / -91.244335
			Patterson Creek*	B	D ◆				R	43.350490 / -91.575502
			Pine Creek	B K	NS	P				43.396042 / -91.589994
Clayton	◆		Bear Creek (Bixby)		NS				B	42.675072 / -91.400427
	◆		Big Spring Kids' Pond	B	B	N			R	42.910573 / -91.472849
	◆		Bloody Run Creek	B	B	N/P	14-inch min [B]		R	43.039685 / -91.217803
	◆		Buck Creek		B ◆	N			R	42.863819 / -91.193101
			Hewett Creek (Ensign Hollow)	B	NS	P	catch&release			42.757368 / -91.561821
			Joy Springs*		M	P			R B	42.676666 / -91.596722
			Maquoketa River*		M				R B	42.643976 / -91.579794
			Mossy Glen	B	NS					
	◆	♿	North Cedar Creek	B K	B	P			R	42.962597 / -91.228981
	◆	♿	Sny Magill Creek	B	B	P			R	42.952408 / -91.195279
Delaware	◆	♿	South Cedar Creek		B ◆				R B	42.829723 / -91.244929
	◆		Turkey River	B	B	P			R	42.910573 / -91.472849
	◆	♿	Little Turkey River	B	M	P			R B	42.634472 / -91.155289
Dubuque	◆		Richmond Springs	B	M	E/N			R	42.635670 / -91.560953
	◆		Twin Bridges		M	E/N			R	42.631350 / -91.285079
Dubuque			White Pine Hollow		NS				B	42.628429 / -91.094124
Fayette			Bear Creek		B ◆				R	42.809838 / -91.695936
			Brush Creek		NS				B	42.774890 / -91.686572
			Dutton Springs Creek	K	NS					42.997945 / -91.766490
	◆		Glovers Creek	B	B	P			R B	42.949344 / -91.774831
	◆	♿	Grannis Creek	B	B	P			R	42.824597 / -91.721390
	◆		Mink Creek*	B	B				R	42.869452 / -91.651649
	◆		Otter Creek*	B	B ◆	N			R B	42.935908 / -91.691783
Howard	◆		Bigalk Creek	R	D				R	43.473921 / -92.079208
Mitchell	◆		Spring Creek		D				R B	43.227144 / -92.793688
	◆		Turtle Creek*	B	D				R	43.393394 / -92.922616
	◆		Wapsipinicon River		D ◆				R	43.451861 / -92.612772
Winneshiek	◆		Bohemian Creek		D				R B	43.214260 / -92.062675
			Canoe Creek	B	NS					43.36713 / -91.61682
			Casey Springs	B K	NS		catch&release (K)			43.358202 / -91.865269
	◆		Coldwater Creek	B R	D	P			R	43.434564 / -91.948782
	◆		Coon Creek	B	D	P			R	43.315912 / -91.629177
	◆		Dunning Spring	K	NS				K	43.311374 / -91.791196
	◆		Falcon Springs	K	NS		catch&release (K)			43.33892 / -91.87055
	◆		North Bear Creek*	B	D	P			R	43.449434 / -91.616945
	◆		Pine Spring Creek*	B K	NS		catch&release (K)			43.38205 / -91.80648
	◆		South Bear Creek*	B	D	N/P			R	43.449434 / -91.616945
	◆		South Pine Creek	B K	NS	P	catch&release			43.385440 / -91.663031
	◆		Trout River	B	D	P			R	43.264155 / -91.661142
	◆	♿	Trout Run	B	D				R	43.290393 / -91.759205
	◆		Twin Springs	B	D	E/N			R	43.298393 / -91.812067
◆		West Canoe Creek*	B	D ◆				R	43.402151 / -91.806966	

## VISIT A TROUT HATCHERY

**MANCHESTER TROUT HATCHERY** – 4 miles southeast of Manchester in Delaware County. Originally built in the 1890s, it is one of the oldest hatcheries in the nation. The spring supplies water to the hatchery at 2,000 gallons per minute.

Large brood trout are kept at the hatchery to provide eggs (female) and milt (male) to produce trout. Rainbow, brown and brook trout are spawned at Manchester; 500,000 to 700,000 fish are produced each year. After hatching, the fry (hatchlings) are raised in tanks inside the hatchery until they reach 2 to 4 inches, when a portion of the fingerlings are transferred to the Big Spring and Decorah Rearing Stations where they are raised until they are 10 to 12 inches.

**BIG SPRING TROUT HATCHERY** – along the Turkey River 10 miles northwest of Elkader in Clayton County. About 150,000 rainbow trout are raised from fingerling to catchable-size and stocked into coldwater streams and community fishing lakes

and ponds. The largest coldwater spring in Iowa provides 10,000 gallons of water per minute to the hatchery.

There is an angler access trail along the river, a trout pond open to public fishing and a kids' trout fishing pond. The hatchery and Turkey River are open to visitors and public fishing year round.

**CHUCK GIPP DECORAH FISH HATCHERY** – 2 miles south of Decorah in Winneshiek County. Built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), about 145,000 rainbow trout are raised from fingerlings to catchable-size and stocked into coldwater streams and community fishing lakes and ponds.

The water supply for the fish hatchery is Siewers Spring and is the second largest coldwater spring in Iowa, producing 4,000 gallons per minute, and is the start of the very popular trout stream, Trout Run.

## TROUT FISHING IN COMMUNITY LAKES AND PONDS



Community trout stockings offer a "close to home" option for anglers in cities and towns across Iowa. Between 1,000 to 4,000 catchable-sized rainbow trout are released twice a year at 18 locations between October and April.

These cool weather stockings provide easy access trout fishing opportunities in areas that cannot support trout during the summer. A family-friendly event is often paired with the stocking to help anglers have success and fun while fishing.

For more information about trout fishing in community lakes and ponds, go to [www.iowadnr.gov/fishlocal](http://www.iowadnr.gov/fishlocal).



## Go Outdoors Iowa with New Licensing App

Iowa DNR recently launched Go Outdoors Iowa, a new licensing system that makes it easier to buy, store and renew your fishing license. You can sign up to auto-renew your licenses, buy a collectible hard card, carry your license on your phone and reprint current licenses.



UPGRADE YOUR PAPER LICENSE TO THIS DURABLE HARD CARD ON CUSTOM ART FOR ONLY \$5!

