



# The Local Scene

*“Fishing opportunities within 1 hour of Northern Kentucky that offer something for all types of fly anglers”*



## Gunpowder Creek

As it winds through the suburbs of Boone County, Gunpowder Creek offers anglers quite a few options to chase warm water species. In its upper reaches it is fairly shallow with soft riffles and it is easy to wade. As it gets closer to its destination, the Ohio River, it deepens and slows down.

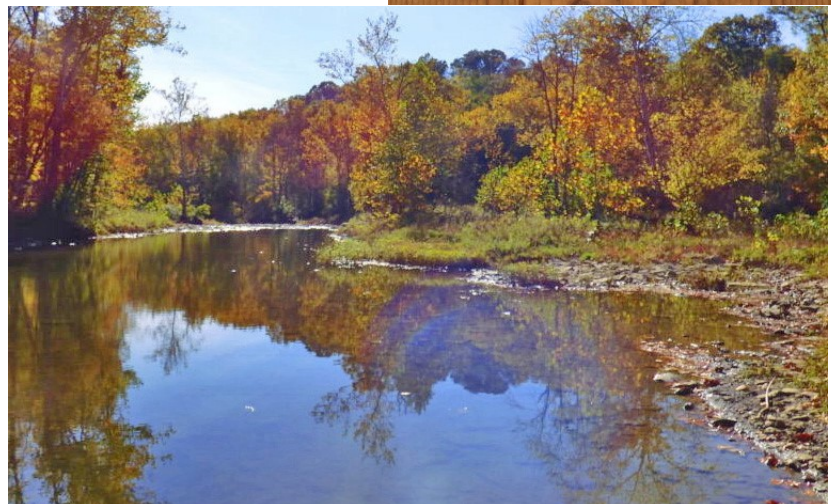
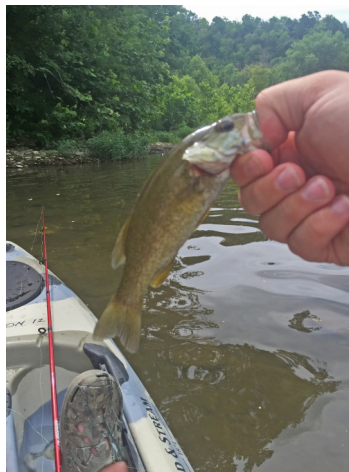
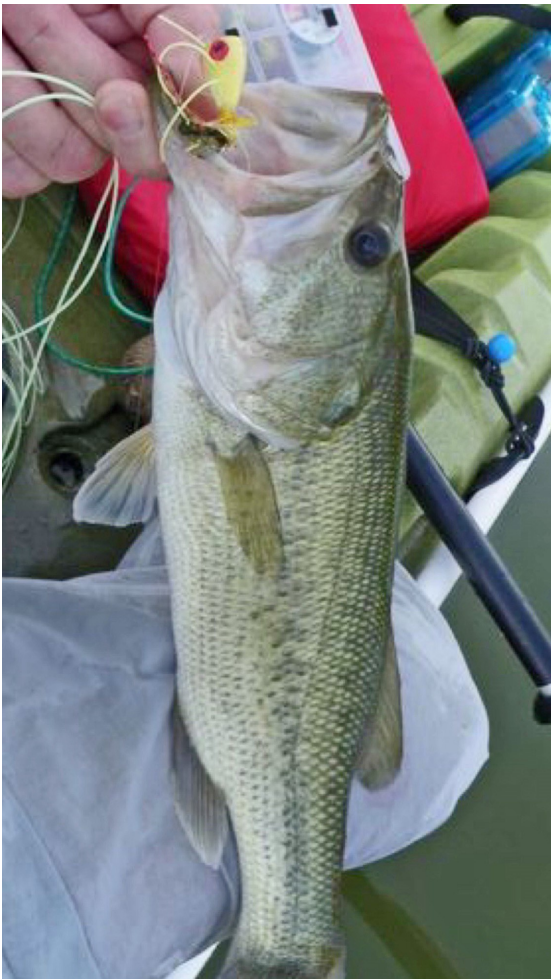
If you're looking for a wading spot close to home then look no further than Gunpowder Creek Nature Park (6750 Sperti Lane, Burlington KY 41005). An unpaved hiking trail (about 1/4 mile) will lead you to Gunpowder Creek where you will find riffles and pools that hold smallmouth bass, rock bass, and bluegill.

For kayak or other small watercraft fishing, the Weather Oar Knot Marina (locally known as "The Knot", 4895 Beaver Rd, Union, KY 41091 ) offers a great place to launch and explore the deeper water of Gunpowder Creek just before it enters the Ohio River. There is typically a \$5.00 launch fee.

When fishing these two different locations two totally different tactics are at play. For the shallow water of the Gunpowder Creek Nature Park, small poppers, terrestrials, and streamers paired with a 3, 4 or 5 weight rod are best suited as the fish are generally small but are very plentiful.

The deeper access at Weather Oar Knot Marina provide an opportunity for several different species including large and smallmouth bass, hybrid stripers, carp, and gar. For this area of Gunpowder Creek, a 6, 7, or 8 weight rod paired with larger poppers, divers, and streamers are preferred.

Right in the backyard of Northern Kentucky, this close to home creek is a great place to get out on short outings to hone your casting skills and fly fishing techniques.





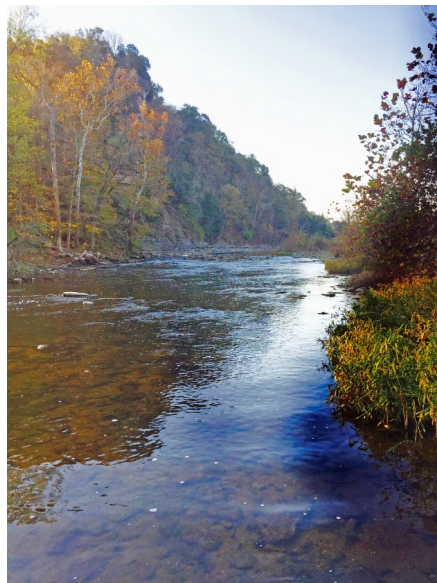
## Elkhorn Creek

Without a doubt, Elkhorn Creek is one of the most diverse fishing streams in all of Kentucky. Known for its large smallmouth bass population, this stream has a lot to offer any fly angler. Other than the highly sought after smallmouth bass, Elkhorn Creek holds a highly diverse ecosystem. Carp, Gar, Rock Bass, Redear Sunfish, Bluegill and Drummer are found in all stretches of the stream.

There are magnificent float options, ranging from a couple hours to a full day floats. Wading options on the Elkhorn abound as well. With numerous put in's and takeout's along the last 15 miles of the stream, one can cater a day of fishing to any possibility imaginable. Wading is ideal when the depth is 3 feet or less, the water temperature is 58° or higher and the flow is less than 2,000 cubic feet per second. Please reference the NKFF MAPBOOK #1, maps A-3a to A-9 for more information on the many put in, take out, and wading access spots.

Flies ranging from poppers to Clouser minnows to crayfish patterns and anything in-between will work with great success. However, this stream is loaded with crayfish. Wading the riffles and bouncing crayfish imitation flies will almost guarantee a strike. The deeper, slower sections provide quality areas for stripping streamers and throwing top-water flies. Match the rod weight to the size of the flies you are throwing, but anything in the 5 to 8 weight will work.

Whether you wade or float, this stream is truly a gem when it comes to Kentucky fly fishing and is easily located within 1 hour of the northern Kentucky region.





## South Fork of the Licking River

The South Fork of the Licking River is often overlooked by anglers wanting to chase smallmouth bass. This relatively slow moving stream holds some of the greatest chances of tangling with a five pound plus smallmouth bass in our area.

The South Fork, as it is commonly referred to, is most suited for floats via kayak, raft, float tube, or Jon boat, although many find it ideal for wading as well. There are several access points to launch water craft. You can either float to a takeout or simply paddle/drive upstream and then float back down to the launch. When floating the stream it is a good idea to study the locations of the many dams and obstructions along your planned route. There is a wading option for the South Fork in and near the town of Falmouth. Refer to the NKFF MAPBOOK #1, maps B-2 through B-4 for launch and wade locations.

Targeting wood laydowns, creek mouths, and grass lines are a sure fire way to wrestle with a quality sized smallmouth bass. Larger articulated streamers, along with Clouser minnow streamers seem to produce the largest fish. Top-water poppers and divers also catch an abundance of fish, especially on hot summer days. Larger 7 or 8 weight rods are better equipped for these larger flies.

If trophy fishing is your game, then the South Fork of the Licking River should most definitely be on your list.





## Brookville Lake Tailwater

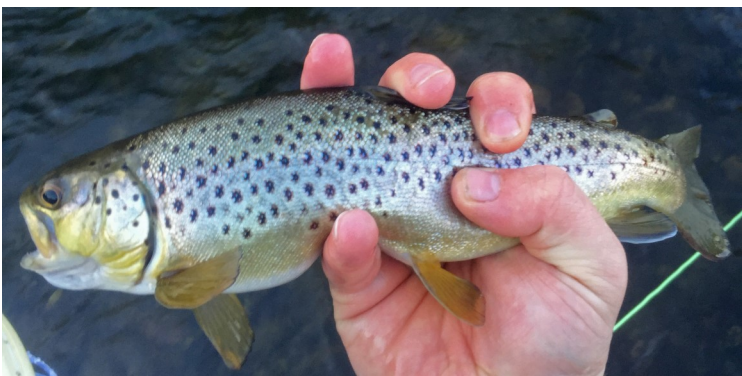
Few people outside of the fly fishing community know that there is a trout stream located within an hour drive of Northern Kentucky. This well stocked, cold-water stream gives anglers a chance to practice their trout stalking skills close to home.

Brookville tailwater is a technical tailwater with trout that receive a lot of fishing pressure however, armed with the right flies, a little know how, and a whole lot of patience, this stream can be very rewarding. Five weight rods with single or double nymph and midge rigs under an indicator or stripping/swinging woolly bugger streamers are often the most successful tactics.

This stream flows alongside the town of Brookville and it offers some rather nice scenery. The whole stream is very wadable so long as the gauge height is under 3.5". You can access gauge height at <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?03276000> .

Please refer to the NKFF MAPBOOK #2, map H-1 for information on various wading access spots.

A great place for winter fishing, this diamond in the rough is a great option for a fly angler looking to fish year round.



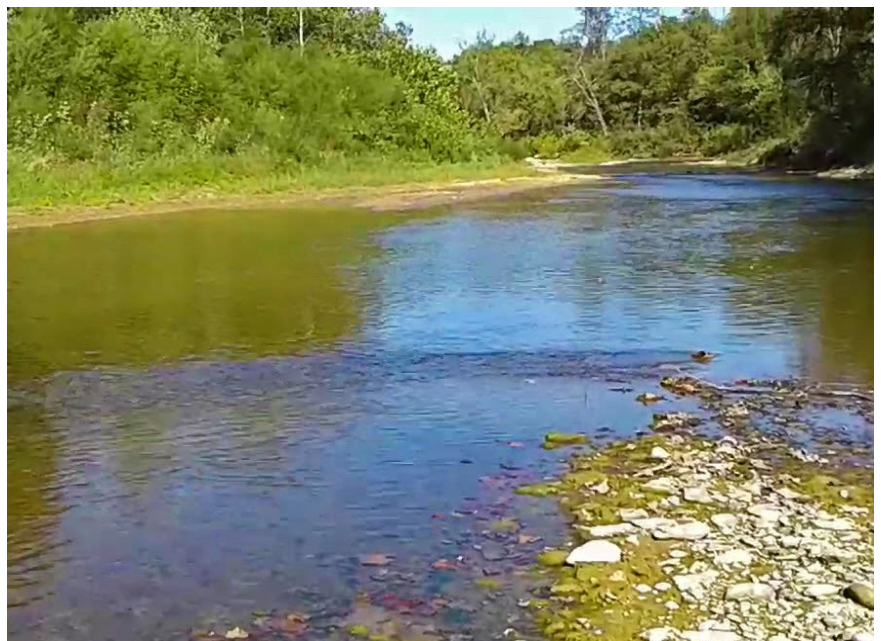


## Whitewater River East Fork & Mainstem

The Whitewater River may have been misnamed because there is really no true white water on the river.

The East Fork of the Whitewater River in Indiana is the headwaters of Brookville Lake. Fish near Liberty, Indiana for some outstanding fishing when the white bass are running. Many anglers use the blooming of the redbuds or Mother's Day to time the white bass run, but like any fishing you just have to keep an eye out. NKFF usually has a trip planned for the white bass run so you'll be getting notices of that. Go to <http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/images/whitewat1.jpg> for a detailed map. You can't go wrong with a woolly bugger (white is a favorite) and a 9 ft, 5 wt rod.

The mainstem of the Whitewater River is formed by the confluence of the West Fork and the East Fork just below Brookville, Indiana. The mainstem flows out of Indiana and into Ohio at Harrison and continues south until it reaches the Great Miami River near Cleves, Ohio. It contains great fishing for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, white bass, stripers, hybrid "wipers", black drum, carp and panfish. A 9 ft, 5 wt rod will usually suffice with woolly buggers being a favorite on this river. Refer to the NKFF Map Book #1, F-7 for more details.



# FISHING *in* NEIGHBORHOODS

## FINs Lakes



The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) created the Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINs) program to provide anglers with quality fishing opportunities close to home. The program currently includes 43 lakes statewide. The aim of the program is to create quality fishing opportunities near urban areas of all sizes throughout the state. Lakes are regularly stocked with catfish and rainbow trout throughout the year. In addition to these lakes being stocked with catfish and trout, the sunfish and bass populations are regularly sampled to ensure natural reproduction is meeting the needs of anglers. Stocking of hybrid sunfish and/or largemouth bass also occur if needed.

<b>FINs Lakes Within 1 Hour of Northern Kentucky</b> <b>Trout Stocking Schedule</b>				
<b>FINs Lake</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Month/# Stocked</b>	<b>Month/# Stocked</b>	<b>Month/# Stocked</b>
Camp Ernst Lake	Boone	Nov/1800	Feb/900	Mar/1800
Southgate Lake	Campbell	Nov/500	Feb/500	Mar/500
Alexandria Community Park Lake	Campbell	Nov/1800	Feb/900	Mar/1800
Lake Pollywog	Grant	Nov/1000	Feb/500	Mar/1000
Leary Lake	Grant	Nov/1800	Feb/900	Mar/1800
Middleton Mills Long Pond	Kenton	Nov/500	Feb/500	Mar/500
Middleton Mills Shelterhouse Pond	Kenton	Nov/500	Feb/500	Mar/500
Prisoners Lake	Kenton	Nov/1000	Feb/500	Mar/1000

For a map of FINs Lakes in Northern Kentucky go to:

<https://goo.gl/Zk7NRA>

Look at all FINs Lakes in Kentucky with directions and an interactive:

<https://fw.ky.gov/Education/Pages/Map-of-FINs-Lakes.aspx>

***Please be cautious of gauge heights  
and flows.***

***Never wade alone!***

***Tight Lines!***

