



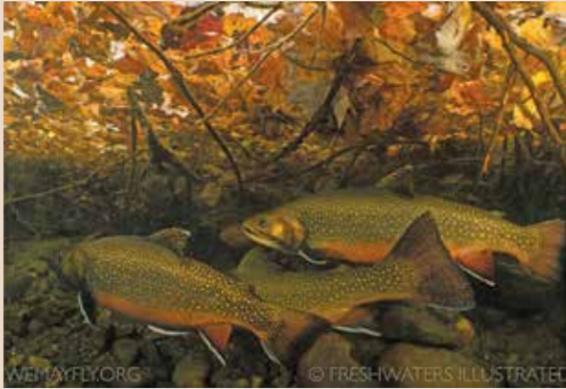
Open here
for a map of
brook trout status

- With climate change, brook trout habitats are experiencing more extreme storms and flooding
- Stronger storms and more water also cause costly repairs to bridges and culverts
- Higher air temperatures mean warmer waters, so brook trout have fewer places to find the cold water they love
- Planning our public works projects with environmental design is good for brook trout AND our communities



- Protect water quality by:
 - Reducing pollution and sediment by planting and maintaining native trees and plants
 - Avoiding pesticides and herbicides
 - Keep livestock fenced out of streams
 - Less hoof traffic = cleaner water!
- Remove or replace barriers, such as old pipes or culverts, that create obstacles to fish movement
- Keep woody material in streams, ponds, and lakes
- These are great hiding spots for brook trout and the aquatic insects they eat!

How can I help brook trout?



WHAT DO BROOK TROUT NEED TO SURVIVE?

- Cold water, less than 68° F
 - Highly oxygenated
- Clean places to nest
 - The fewer the particles, like clay and silt, the better!
- Trees!
 - Tucked away pools
 - Undercut banks
- Unpolluted water with plenty of woody material and things to eat, like insect larvae.
- Free flowing waters
 - No obstructions, like dams or culverts
 - Connected streams allow brook trout to find cool water in summer and places to mate in the fall

**HEALTHY BROOK TROUT =
HEALTHY WATERS AND COMMUNITIES**

This brochure was funded by the
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
through a grant from the
West Virginia Department
of Environmental Protection.

- Brook trout numbers have been declining for decades and have been lost from 70% of their historic range
- Some U.S. populations have disappeared from entire regions
- Declines of brook trout have been linked to:
 - Habitat degradation
 - Poor water quality, especially increased water temperature
 - Competition from other fish species that were not there before (non-native)

Why do we need to protect the brook trout?

To keep streams healthy for you and brook trout, you can plant and maintain streamside trees, shrubs, and other vegetation

- These are called 'buffers' because they protect waters from outside pollutants like sediment and fertilizers
- They also provide shade, keeping water cooler

In doing so, you create a better home for brook trout and healthier water for you and your family. It's a win-win!

GOOD FOR BROOK TROUT AND YOU: INCREASING STREAMSIDE VEGETATION:



Are wild brook trout near me?

- If you live near cold water in the Eastern U.S., you may have brook trout!
- Their range includes areas from Georgia to northern New England, and the Great Lakes and Canada
- The blue and orange on maps (unfold this flyer) show where brook trout live now
- Visit <https://easternbrooktrout.org> or snap the QR code on the map page.

Who can help with advice and funding?

- There are many organizations that support and help pay for brook trout conservation efforts, including:

UDSA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS) Farm Service Agency (FSA)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Trout Unlimited
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture
Your local conservation district
Your state fish and wildlife agency

Check out what other resources are available in your state: <https://easternbrooktrout.org/why-wild-brook-trout/landowner-resources-1> or snap this QR code:



Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture is a National Fish Habitat Partnership. Our vision is healthy coldwater systems with fishable Brook Trout populations throughout their historic eastern geographic range.

West Virginia Rivers Coalition is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to conserving and restoring West Virginia's exceptional rivers and streams.



- Everyone needs clean drinking water, and brook trout are living symbols of clean water! Brook trout thrive in cold, clean, unpolluted water
- They are 'indicators' of good water quality
- If brook trout live in your local stream, you know it is clean!
- They are likely some of your oldest neighbors, as they are native to the Eastern U.S. Brook trout have made the Eastern U.S. their home for millions of years
- No other trout are native to Eastern U.S. streams
- They are striking in appearance
- Brook trout are widely known for their colorful markings, often compared to watercolor paintings
- Male brook trout display especially vibrant colors during mating season (fall) to attract females
- They're fun to catch and great when teaching kids to fish

Why are brook trout special?

- They are a beautiful type of trout, popular as a sport fish
- They mostly live in cold streams but can also occur in cold ponds and lakes

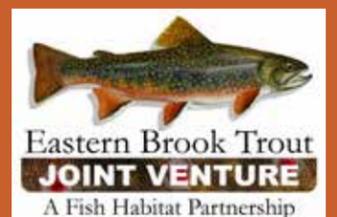
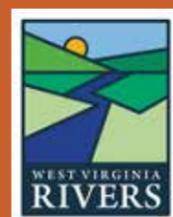


**BROOK TROUT AND
HEALTHY WATERS:
A WIN-WIN**



**A GUIDE FOR LIVING NEAR
COLD WATER STREAMS**

Presented jointly by



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EASTERN UNITED STATES AND WILD BROOK TROUT STATUS

