

Mill Creek Flaherty Park



Fish Species

Brown Trout

Species Description

Most legal-sized brown trout are 8-12 inches, with occasional fish in the 15-20 inch range. Sub-legal fish are abundant after stocking in the spring. Wild steelhead leave the stream before attaining legal size. When they return as adults, they average 7-10 lbs. Steelhead are rare during the open season. The best chance of encountering a steelhead is in late summer. The size of Chinook Salmon and Coho Salmon varies depending on prey abundance in Lake Michigan. It is difficult to land salmon or Steelhead in such a small stream.

Geographic Coordinates

Lat:42.190234 / Long:-86.258572

Noteworthy

There are picnic tables in the park. The stream width is approximately 20 feet at this site. Mill Creek is wadeable, but anglers should be alert for deep holes and tripping hazards. The stream becomes highly turbid after rain events. There is additional access to the creek at the Carmody Road and Dan Smith Road crossings. Outside of the City parks, most of the stream flows through private land. Please stay in the stream.

Fishing Regulations

Mill Creek is a designated Type 1 trout stream. Open to fishing from the last Saturday in April through September 30. Minimum size limits are 8 inches for Brown Trout and 10 inches for Rainbow Trout. No special gear restrictions. All Rainbow Trout (Steelhead) are wild. Brown Trout are a mixture of stocked and wild fish. Some Chinook Salmon and Coho Salmon from the Paw Paw River also move into Mill Creek in September.

Directions to Site

Flaherty Park is owned by the City of Watervliet. From M-140 (Main Street) turn east onto Butternut Street. Take first street on the right (Church Street). The entrance to Flaherty Park is on the left (east) side of Church Street immediately south of Butternut Street. There is a paved parking lot with space for about 10 vehicles.

Regional Visitor Information (URL)

swmichigan.org