

FISHING - Boating and Water Safety

BOATING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

Anyone born after December 31, 1986, must successfully complete an approved boating education course before operating a motorboat. The course is available on the DNR website at wvdnr.gov/lenforce/boating.shtm.

WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET

Personal flotation devices are not just for wearing in boats and not just for those who can't swim. Make sure the PFD is in good condition and fits properly. Youth under 12 years old must wear a PFD if they are on deck or in a canoe while the vessel is moving. A boat cushion is not a wearable PFD.

WADING

There are several rules you should follow for safe wading.

- Wade with a fishing buddy.
- Wear your PFD.
- Find out whether the bottom is rocky or muddy.
- Shuffle your feet or probe with a stick along the bottom to avoid holes.
- Study how swiftly the water is moving.
- Wear appropriate foot wear (considering water temperature and bottom substrate).



PERSON IN WATER

Reach-Throw-Row-Go is a method of rescuing a person who is in trouble in water.

If the person is close to you, REACH out with a long object such as an oar or tree limb to pull the person into shore or the boat.

If you can't reach the person, then THROW them a life-saving device. If possible, it should be tied to the end of a line so you can pull the person to you. An inflatable ball or foam cooler can be used if the proper device is not available.

If there is nothing to throw, ROW a boat to the person in trouble. The person should be pulled in over the stern, or back, of the boat if possible to prevent the boat from tipping over. If the boat has a motor, it must be shut off before you get to the person in the water.

GO (swim) to the person ONLY as a last resort and only if you have had life-saving training. People who are drowning often panic and injure or drown someone trying to rescue them.

FISHING IN COLD WEATHER

Hypothermia is a life-threatening condition in which your body loses heat faster than it can produce it. A common misconception is that the air or water temperature must be below freezing before you can become hypothermic. Any water colder than 70 degrees can cause hypothermia. Symptoms include uncontrollable shivering, fumbling hands, slow speech, confusion and exhaustion. Emergency treatment: get the victim out of the cold, give warm drinks, keep the person awake, remove all wet clothing and get the victim into dry clothes.

To stay warm, wear several layers of clothing. Air trapped between the layers serves as insulation.

A wool hat prevents heat loss from your head. Fleece, polypropylene or wool clothes will stay warm when wet. Cotton clothes will not keep you warm when wet and should not be worn on a canoe trip. Neoprene waders are good cold-weather gear.

TROUT STOCKING – Rivers and Streams

	Code	No. StockingsPeriod	Code	No. StockingsPeriod	Code	No. StockingsPeriod
ď	Q	One1st week of March		OneFebruary	CR	VariesVaries
		OneJanuary	BW	One every two weeksMarch-May	М	One each monthFebruary-May
ı	W	TwoFebruary			MJ	One each monthJanuary-April
d		One each weekMarch-May	BA	OneJanuary	Υ	OneApril
	Х	After April 1 or area is open to public		OneMarch	F	Once/weekColumbus Day week & next week
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	Trout Stocking				
River or Stream: County	Code: Area	SR = state Route CR = county Route FR = USFS Road			
Big Sandy Creek: Preston	BW: from Bruceton Mills upstream to Clifton Mills along CR 8; also at CR 4/2 State Line Bridge near the Pennsylvania state line.				
Blackwater River: Tucker	W-F: from Davis upstream 4 miles along the Camp 70 Road; also a 3-mile section at the SR 32 bridge.				
Blackwater River (C&R): Tucker	W-F: From CR 29/1 bridge in Blackwater Falls State Park downstream 3.5 miles to North Fork of Blackwater River.				
Buffalo Creek: Brooke	BW: from Bethany upstream 3 miles along SR 67 to the Pennsylvania state line; also 0.5 mile along CR 32 at Bethany.				
Clover Run: Tucker	M: from CR 21 bridge 1.5 miles south of St. George upstream 4 miles to CR 23 bridge at mouth of Valley Fork.				
Dry Fork: Tucker	BW: Upper: from Old Mill below Harman downstream to mouth of Red Creek; Middle: from CR 45 bridge at Jenningston downstream to Gladwin; Lower: from Elk Lick Run along CR 26 and 43/12 to mouth of Red Run.				
Horseshoe Run: Tucker	BW: from the mouth of Mikes Run upstream 6.2 r	miles along CR 7 to Shafer.			
Kings Creek: Hancock	M: from the Pennsylvania state line downstream	4.5 miles along CR 11.			
Middle Wheeling Creek (C&R): Ohio	CR: from the mouth of Gillespie Run downstream	n 1 mile along CR 39/6.			
North Fork of Fishing Creek: Wetzel	M: from Pine Grove upstream 1 mile along CR 15.				
Paw Paw Creek: Marion	BW: from Rivesville upstream 8 miles to Basnettville along CR 17.				
Red Creek: Tucker	BW: From Lanesville downstream 2.5 miles along CR 45.				
Rhine Creek: Preston	M: from northeast corner of Cathedral State Park downstream 2.2 miles to the rock quarry along CR 53/4.				
South Fork of Fishing Creek: Wetzel	uth Fork of Fishing Creek: Wetzel M: from Hastings upstream 4 miles to Jacksonburg along SR 20.				
Tomlinson Run: Hancock	M: from 1 mile above the Ohio River at the lower Tomlinson Run State Park boundary upstream through the park and above the lake to the upper park boundary.				



LANDOWNER - ANGLER RELATIONS

West Virginia anglers are indebted to local landowners throughout the state. Without their consent and generosity, fishing would be restricted to state and federal lands. The opportunity for continued use of private property is largely dependent upon anglers' attitudes and conduct. Most stream closures are the result of disrespect for private property. Do not leave fishing line, bait containers or other trash.

STREAM LITTER LAW

It is illegal to throw litter, a fish or animal carcass, or other unsightly matter into a water body or on land within 100 yards of water, or in a location where high water would wash the matter into a water body.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

See the West Virginia Fishing Regulations booklet for:

- Reciprocal fishing agreement on Ohio River
- Fish consumption advisories
- Sport fish identification

Online

havers Fork River

For more detailed information on individual access sites, go online to **www.mapwv.gov/huntfish/.**

FISHING – Float Trips

CHEAT RIVER WATER TRAIL

From	То	Miles
Parsons Black Fork	. Holly Meadows Bridge	3.1
Holly Meadows Bridge	. St. George Bridge	8.1
St. George Bridge	. Hannahsville Ford	8.4
Hannahsville Ford	. Riverview Lounge	12.3
Riverview Lounge	. Rowlesburg City Park	3.3

BLACKWATER RIVER (Little Canaan WMA)

From	To	Miles
Camp 70 Foot Bridge	Pipeline	2.8

WEST FORK RIVER

From	То	Miles
Worthington City Park	. Monongah	5.0

TYGART RIVER

From	То	Miles
Philippi Covered Bridge	. Meriden Mine Ramp	3.0
Tygart Dam Tailwater	. Camp Towles	7.3

Check current river and lake levels on the stream flow information (USGS) heading on the fishing home page of the DNR website.

FINDING YOUR WAY IN WEST VIRGINIA

The following maps and guide contain valuable information for locating access sites and describing river reaches.

- West Virginia Atlas and Gazetteer
- West Virginia Dept. of Highways County Maps
- A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to West Virginia
- Corps of Engineers Navigation Charts for the Monongahela and Ohio rivers are available online at: www.lrp.usace.army.mil/nav/nav_Charts.htm

ANGLERS ALERT

Spread of Unwanted Organisms

Moving live fish or other aquatic animals and plants from one body of water to another can cause long-term damage to the ecological stability of lakes and streams and can threaten recreational fishing. Please take these precautions to prevent problems.

- do not move fish from one body of water to another
- drain live wells thoroughly before leaving an access area
- do not release live baitfish or aquarium fish into West Virginia's waters
- remove all visible plants and animals from your boat, motor, trailer, nets and all fishing gear before leaving an access area

Fishing and Boating Access Sites

Public boating and fishing access facilities shall be used solely for the purpose of launching and retrieving watercraft or fishing from the shore. No other use of the access sites is allowed.

After launching, vehicles shall be parked in available parking spaces.

Any law enforcement officer acting under proper authority may prohibit an individual from launching a watercraft from any public boating and fishing access site.

The following are prohibited at fishing and boating access sites:

- consumption of alcoholic beverages or possession of an open container of alcoholic beverages
- swimming or bathing
- camping
- open fires
- trash disposal except where trash receptacles are provided
- discharge of firearms, fireworks or explosives
- leaving unattended watercraft
- commercial use except as authorized by the DNR director
- parking of any vehicle or the mooring of any watercraft in such a manner as to obstruct any avenue of ingress or egress, except for the purpose of launching

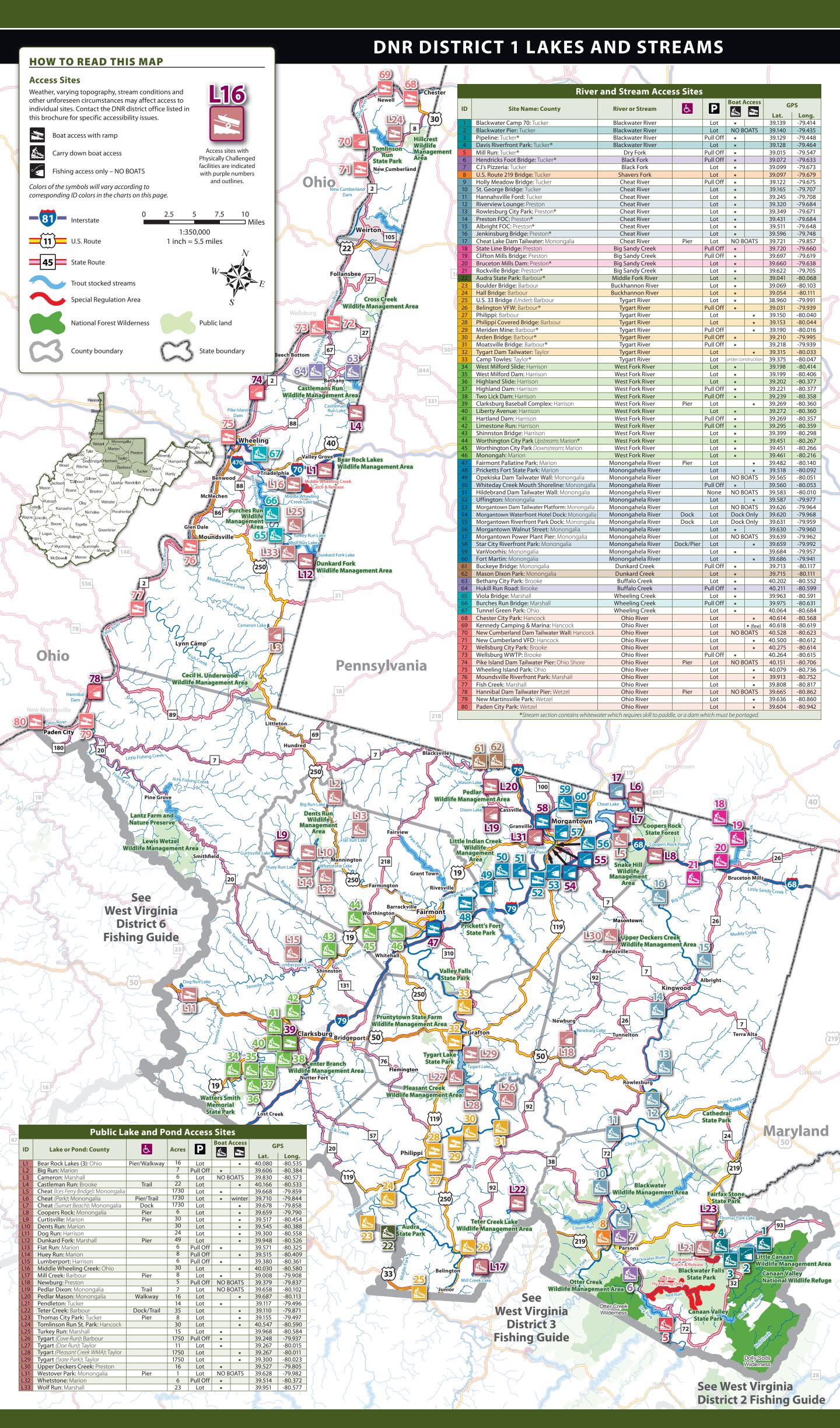
TROUT STOCKING – Lakes and Ponds

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į	I.D.	Lake or Pond: County	Acres	Ł	P	Code: Area	SR = state Route CR = county Route FR = USFS Road	
	L1	Bear Rock: Ohio	16	Pier/Walkway	Lot	BW-Q: 3 miles east of I-70 Ex	it 10 on CR 41/6 off CR 41/3.	
	L2	Big Run: Marion	7		Pull off	Y: 6 miles north of Mannington on CR 250/4 off U.S. 2		
Ì	L5	Castleman Run: Brooke/Ohio	22	Trail	Lot	BW: 4.5 miles south of Betha	ny on CR 32 off SR 67.	
	L9	Coopers Rock: Monongalia	6	Pier	Lot	BW-F: Coopers Rock State Fo	prest at I-68 Exit 15.	
è	L10	Curtisville: Marion	30	Pier Lot MJ: 6.5 miles west of Mannington o		ngton on CR 7 off CR 1.		
	L13	Dog Run: Harrison	15		Lot	M: 1 mile north of Salem on CR 50/1 off U. S. 50.		
N.	L14	Dunkard Fork: Marshall	49	Pier	Lot	M: 12 miles south of I-70 Exit 10 near Majorsville.		
1	L16	Huey Run: Marion	8		Pull-off	BA: 4.5 miles west of Mannington on CR 36 off CR 1.		
	L18	Middle Wheeling Creek: Ohio	30		Lot BW: 9 miles east of Wheeling on CR 39 off U.S. 40		g on CR 39 off U.S. 40.	
	L19	Mill Creek: Barbour	8	Pier	Lot	M: 2 miles east of Belington on CR 15.		
	L20	Newburg: Preston	5		Pull-off	M: 1 mile southeast of Newburg on CR 64 off SR 92.		
	L24	Teter Creek: Barbour	35	Dock/Trail	Lot	BW-F: 10 miles north of Belington on CR 9 off SR 92.		
	L25	Thomas Park: Tucker	8	Pier/Trail	Lot	M: under the U.S. 219 Bridge	at Thomas.	
	L26	Tomlinson Run: Hancock	30		Pull-off	MJ: Tomlinson Run State Par	k on CR 8 off SR 2.	
	L32	Westover Park: Monongalia	1.5	Pier Lot		Q: Westover Park northeast of U.S. 19 at I-79 Exit 152.		



Teter Creek Lake





Explore West Virginia's Public Fishing Areas Online

Scan the QR code to access DNR's database of public fishing areas throughout the state.

BUYING A LICENSE

Call 304-558-2758, visit a local license agent, or go online at www.wvfish.com.

GOWILD!

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Report Stream Pollution or Fish Kills 800-642-3074
Trout Stocking Hotline 304-558-3399
Eagle and Osprey Sightings 304-637-0245

REPORTING BOATING, FISHING, AND HUNTING VIOLATIONS

In Progress - dial 911

Not in Progress – call DNR District Law Enforcement Office during normal operating hours.

- Observe and write down all of the information concerning the violation.
- 2. Don't confront violator.
- **3.** Contact a local DNR Natural Resources Police Officer or report the violation online at www.wvdnr.gov/LEnforce/Poachers.shtm as soon as possible.

Get involved in protecting your sport; be willing to testify in court.



Wildlife Resources Section – District 1

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

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Money used to buy and develop stream and lake access sites comes from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, including the conservation stamp. Federal funds used for these projects come from taxes paid by anglers when they buy fishing equipment or gasoline for their boats in compliance with the Sport Fish Restoration Act.

It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, services, programs, and employment opportunities to all persons without regard to sex, race, age, religion, national origin or ancestry, disability, or other protected group status.