



# KIDS TROUT FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

## *in Southcentral Pennsylvania Streams*

*by John Allen*

*photos by the author*

**A**s a parent of young children who enjoy fishing, teaching them to enjoy trout fishing has been the most challenging type of fishing to introduce. There are many factors that go into a successful trout fishing outing, but the biggest one that impacts kids

is fishing pressure. The Mentored Youth Trout Day is one day out of the year when kids can experience the joys of trout fishing without a lot of additional stream pressure. In addition, there are five stream sections in southcentral Pennsylvania where parents can take their children 15-years-old and younger trout fishing.

### **Clark Creek**

Clark Creek, Dauphin County, is the most well-known stream on this list for its kids' area, mostly due to its proximity to Harrisburg. Being the most well-known also means it gets pressure during the spring. Many of the prime spots may be busy on weekends. The stretch extends from the Route 225 bridge up to the first bridge on



*Clark Creek,  
Dauphin County*

Clarks Valley Road. The section is highlighted by a large parking area at a cooperative nursery, where you will find two low-head dams and a few deflector pools that create excellent holding spots for trout. A 100-foot-long concrete path behind the nursery creates a safe spot to fish for children of all ages.

## Latimore Creek

Latimore Creek kids' section, Adams County, runs from Capital Hill Road bridge downstream for about 150 yards to the entrance of the Latimore Valley Fairgrounds. This section is highlighted by several stream deflectors that turn an otherwise flat section of stream into several quality holding spots for trout. The entire section is flat with good places to stand along the bank. This section receives multiple trout stockings per year but doesn't see the same pressure as Clark Creek.

## Carbaugh Run

Carbaugh Run kids' area, Franklin County, runs from the Route 30 bridge down to the confluence with the Conococheague Creek in Caledonia State Park. In peak season, the flow throughout this section can be extremely fast. Stream deflectors through the section help break up the run. During the summer months, when this section gets low, the deflectors provide trout with a good holding spot. The entire section of stream runs through a big picnic area, but some parts are challenging to navigate for smaller kids due to roots, rocks, and steep banks.

## Conococheague Creek

Conococheague Creek kids' area, Franklin County, begins about 250 feet below the Tallow Hill Road bridge along Loop Road and runs for a little over 1,000 feet to a cable crossing the stream at the end of a long parking area. This section of stream, highlighted by a long, deep run, makes up about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the section. Then, the stream becomes faster and narrower but maintains excellent depth. The deeper water allows the stream to hold fish all year. The entire section is relatively flat with a few rocky and muddy spots. The stream gets close to Loop Road and the parking area a few times, so parents will need to be a little more aware of their surroundings than on the other streams mentioned.

## Esther Run

Esther Run kids' area, Fulton County, begins from a point opposite of the stone house above the raceway to downstream approximately  $\frac{1}{10}$  mile below T-342 to a steel cable. Try this popular fishing spot with kids this trout season.

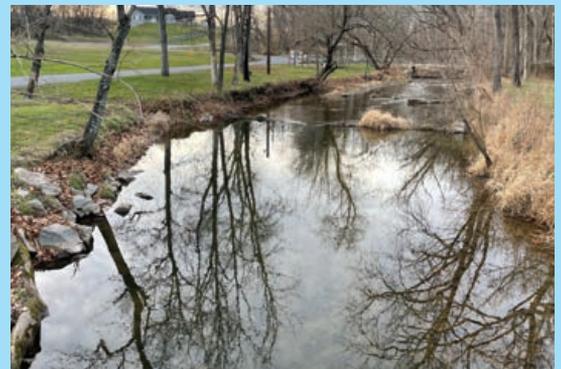
When Mentored Youth Trout Day is over, there are opportunities throughout the area to continue to grow your child's trout fishing experience. These spots provide an excellent place for children to learn to love trout fishing. ☐



*The author's daughter with a Rainbow Trout she caught while fishing Clark Creek kids' area, Dauphin County.*



*The author's son with a Rainbow Trout on an outing to Clark Creek kids' area.*



*A view of Latimore Creek kids' area, Adams County.*



*Carbaugh Run kids' area, Franklin County, at peak flow.*