

# Blue Ridge Parkway

## FISHING OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR WATERS

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior



The Blue Ridge Parkway is designed as a recreational motor road connecting Shenandoah and Great Smoky Mountains national parks. Along much of its route, the Parkway hugs the crest of the world's oldest mountains. A mountaintop park may seem an unlikely place to fish, but just the opposite is true. The National Park Service protects over one hundred miles of streams, many of them small, spring-fed watercourses that rise along the spine of the Blue Ridge. These streams and lakes hold a special interest for those trying to enhance their Parkway experience by searching out native or stocked fish in a mountain environment.

### BLUFFS DISTRICT (NORTH)

WATER	MILEPOST	SPECIES	REGULATIONS
Chestnut Creek	215.2 - 217	Brook Trout	Special
Big Pine Creek	221.5 - 225.5	Brook, Rainbow Trout	General
Hare Mill Pond	225.4	Smallmouth Bass	General
Brush Creek	227 - 228	Brook, Rainbow Trout	General
Little Glade Creek	228 - 230.5	Brook, Rainbow Trout	General
Little Glade Mill Pond	230	Brim	General
Basin-Cove Creek Complex	238 - 244	Rainbow Trout	Special
Meadow fork Creek	246 - 248.5	Brook, Rainbow Trout	General

### LICENSES AND REGULATIONS

Blue Ridge Parkway streams and lakes are gamefish waters governed by Title 36, Sections 2.3 and 7.34(b) of the code of Federal Regulations. Fishing is permitted in all Parkway waters with a valid state fishing license from *either North Carolina or Virginia*. No special trout stamp or license is needed and persons under age 16 can fish without a license. Fishing is not permitted from footbridges, dams or adjacent walls. In *trout waters*, regulations are posted at the stream bank and are in effect for that stream only. *Closed waters* are also clearly marked and fishing is not allowed due to emergency conditions or ongoing research. On all Parkway waters, fishing is allowed from one half hour before sunset to one half hour after sunset. Digging for bait on Parkway land is not allowed. Be aware that many

streams meander onto U.S. Forest Service or private land and regulations will vary as the jurisdiction changes.

### SPECIES OF FISH FOUND IN PARKWAY STREAMS AND LAKES

Most of the lakes on the Blue Ridge Parkway support warm water species such as bass, bream, or bluegill.

In Parkway streams, a variety of species of trout may be found:

**Brown trout** have been stocked in eastern streams since the late nineteenth century. These golden colored trout are not native to the Appalachian mountains.

**Rainbow trout** have been stocked in eastern streams as sport fish as well. These beautiful fish with the pink stripe down the side are originally native to the western United States.

**Brook trout** is the only native trout in the southern Appalachians. This small fish

with beautiful orange and red markings has survived many changes in its habitat during the centuries that humans have occupied the Blue Ridge. Catching a "Brookie" is an experience most anglers carry with them for a lifetime.

### CATCH AND RELEASE "Your Future & Theirs"

"Catch and release" fishing is growing in popularity around the world among environmentally sensitive fishermen. The thrill of landing a beautiful fish and releasing it to its native habitat is a rewarding feeling for many anglers. Barbless hooks and minimal handling help ensure that the fish will survive a catch and live to reproduce or provide sport for another day. A photograph of your catch can be just as rewarding as "taking home the kill." Although the law does not require "catch and release" on all streams, the habit is one that will ensure healthy populations of species for future generations.