



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!
- Hiding places
 - 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**

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.

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
- Visit <https://easternbrooktrout.org> or snap this QR code:



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:



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BROOK TROUT AND HEALTHY WATERS: A WIN-WIN



A GUIDE FOR LIVING NEAR COLD WATER STREAMS

Presented jointly by



What are brook trout?

- 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



Why are brook trout special?

- 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



INCREASING STREAMSIDE VEGETATION: GOOD FOR BROOK TROUT AND YOU

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!

Why do we need to protect the brook trout?

- 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)

How can I help brook trout?

- 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!



WHAT DO EXTREME WEATHER AND A CHANGING CLIMATE MEAN FOR BROOK TROUT?

- 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

DRINK WATER?
THINK ABOUT
BROOK TROUT!



- 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!