



Stocked Trout Water Designations

Trout Stream or Lake

TWRA stocks rainbow trout into streams and small lakes starting in the spring of each year. Although fishing may be allowed year-round on these waters, the best fishing is from the first stocking until midsummer when water temperatures exceed 70° F. The [stocking schedule](#) for these locations is listed in the fishing guide.

Trout Reservoir

Some large reservoirs have enough cold, oxygenated water to support trout. TWRA stocks all these reservoirs with rainbow trout, and some are also stocked with lake or brown trout. These fish commonly grow to reach several pounds and relatively few anglers take advantage of these fisheries. Each summer starting in June, reservoirs thermally stratify. At this time trout are restricted to cold water at depths of 35-40 feet and below. Summer trout fishing should be concentrated to deep water by trolling or vertical jigging.

Trout Tailwater

A tailwater is a reach of river that is located immediately below a dam. Coldwater trout habitat is provided by flood control and hydro-power projects, which are managed by the Tennessee Valley Authority and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The TWRA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service routinely stock adult and fingerling, rainbow and brown trout from spring through fall with most stocking scheduled to meet peak fishing demand in midsummer. Although the TWRA does not commonly stock tailwaters during the winter, fishing is productive year-round in most tailwaters. Always check the generation schedule (1-800-238-2264 or <http://www.lakeinfo.tva.gov/>) before fishing tailwaters, and beware of unexpected rising water.

Winter Trout Stream or Lake

December through March, TWRA stocks rainbow trout into ponds and streams where the public has easy access to the water. The [scheduled stocking date](#) is posted on the TWRA website in November. These are excellent locations to take kids fishing.