

SPORTSMAN'S[®]
connection

East Tennessee Fishing Map Guide

- Detailed contour lake maps
- Fishing spots and techniques
- Fish stocking and survey data
- Access and accommodations
- GPS grids
- Road maps
- Stream maps and fishing information



Fishing Information: Fort Loudoun (also spelled Fort Loudon) and Watts Bar lakes are the first and second of nine major reservoirs that impound the Tennessee River. The bulk of the water in these two big lakes comes from the French Broad and Holston Rivers, which join forces to form the Tennessee River at the head of Fort Loudoun, and from the Little Tennessee River, which contributes its waters through a canal that links the lower ends of Tellico and Fort Loudoun lakes. Dozens of streams feed the two big impoundments from both sides, and a glance at a map might suggest that one would discover an abundance of fine stream fishing opportunities in this watershed. The truth is, however, that virtually all the streams that contribute their flows to this section of the Tennessee River (excluding major rivers that are covered separately) are small, run exclusively through private land and/or have been significantly impacted in negative ways by human use. A handful offer limited opportunities to catch sunfish, scattered catfish and maybe a few small bass. Truly, the only tributary worth talking about is **Little River**, which forms in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, high in the mountains.

Fortunately, Little River and a couple major tributaries

offer many miles of fishable waters both within and outside of the park and constitute a very good fishery.

Little River has the largest watershed in the Smokies, and its main headwaters rise high on the slopes of Clingmans Dome, the highest mountain

in the national park. Most headwaters streams are native brook trout waters and are closed to all fishing. However, **Fish Camp Prong** is one of eight brook trout streams in the national park that were opened to fishing on an experimental basis in May 2002. As is the case on all park waters that are open to fishing, only artificial lures may be used or possessed on Little River and, at the time of this writing, a five-fish limit and seven-inch minimum size apply (be sure to check current regulations). Except on the eight designated-open brook trout streams, all brook trout must be immediately released.

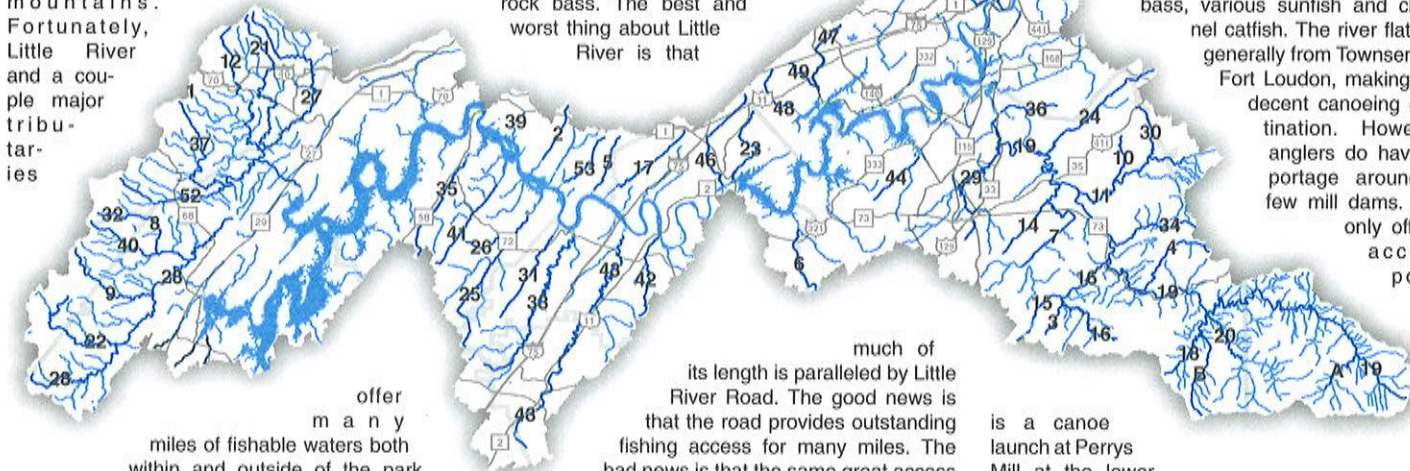
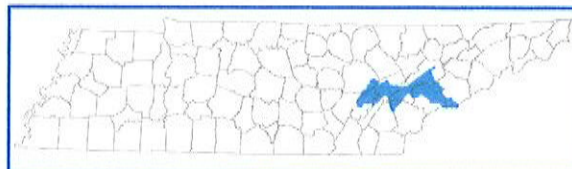
Despite its name, Little River grows fairly quickly into a large trout stream, and it offers many miles of big water within park boundaries. The upper part of the river is steep and tumbling and full of feisty rainbow trout. The bulk of the river contains a mix of flatter runs, drops and massive pools and contains both rainbow and brown trout, including browns that occasionally reach double-digit weights. The lower end of the park portion of Little River also contains a good population of smallmouth bass and rock bass. The best and worst thing about Little River is that

much of its length is paralleled by Little River Road. The good news is that the road provides outstanding fishing access for many miles. The bad news is that the same great access makes Little River extremely popular with waders, swimmers and tubers. The upper end of the river, on the other hand, can only be accessed by hiking. Several Little River

tributaries, the largest being the **West and Middle Prongs of Little River**, offer many more miles of trout waters in this watershed. Most fishing in these waters is for wild rainbow trout.

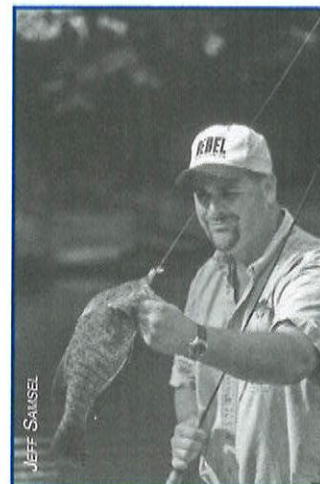
From the national park boundary to the town of Townsend, TWRA stocks Little River with trout throughout spring and summer. This section, which tumbles quite a bit and is best suited for wading, also contains a very good population of smallmouth bass and rock bass. No trout are stocked downstream of Townsend, but a few trout do find their way downstream, and they sometimes grow to large sizes. The lower river contains a broad mix of warm- and cool-water species, including smallmouths, largemouths, rock bass, various sunfish and channel catfish. The river flattens generally from Townsend to Fort Loudoun, making it a decent canoeing destination. However, anglers do have to portage around a few mill dams. The only official access point

is a canoe launch at Perrys Mill at the lower end of the Townsend section. However, anglers can get in and out of the water at several points along U.S. Highway 321 (Little River Road) and various smaller roads farther downstream. The entire river runs through private land downstream of the national park boundary.

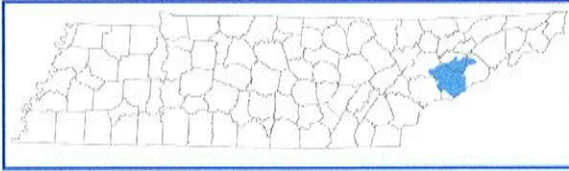


AM	Key #	Creek / Stream Name	NSQ	RB	RF	WQ
-	185-1	Basin Creek, North Fork	2			
218	185-2	Buck Creek	3		2	4
230	185-3	Cane Creek	1			
230	185-4	Carr Creek	4			
218	185-5	Cave Creek	3		2	4
229	185-6	Cloyd Creek	3			3
230	185-7	Crooked Creek	3			
226	185-8	Dunlap Creek	2			
226	185-9	Duskin Creek	2			
220, 230	185-10	Ellejoy Creek	3		2	3
230	185-11	Ellejoy Creek, Little	3			
-	185-12	Fall Creek	1		3	
220	185-13	First Creek	4			4
230	185-14	Flag Creek	4			1
230	185-15	Flat Creek	2			
230	185-16	Hesse Creek	1,3			1
218	185-17	Hines Creek	3			
230-231	185-18	Laurel Creek	1			
230-231	185-19	Little River	2	1,2	1,2,4	1,3
230-231	185-20	Little River, Middle Prong	1			
-	185-21	Mammys Creek	1	2		1
226	185-22	Moccasin Creek	1			1
218	185-23	Muddy Creek				1
220	185-24	Nails Creek	3		3	
227	185-25	Paint Rock Creek	3		3	4
227	185-26	Paint Rock Creek, Little	3	3		4
217	185-27	Piney Creek	1	2	3	1
226	185-28	Piney River	1	2		1

AM	Key #	Creek / Stream Name	NSQ	RB	RF	WQ
219, 229	185-29	Pistol Creek	3			4
220	185-30	Pitner Creek	3			
227-228	185-31	Polecat Creek	3			4
226	185-32	Pond Cove Creek	2			
227-228	185-33	Pond Creek	4		2	4
230	185-34	Reed Creek	3			1
217, 227	185-35	Riley Creek	3		2	
220	185-36	Roddy Creek	4			
-	185-37	Sandy Creek	2			
220	185-38	Second Creek	4			4
217	185-39	Smith Creek	3			4
226	185-40	Soak Creek	2,3			1
227	185-41	Stamp Creek	3			
228	185-42	Steekee Creek	3			
227-228	185-43	Sweetwater Creek	3	3		4
219, 229	185-44	Taylor Branch Creek	4			
219	185-45	Third Creek	4			4
218	185-46	Town Creek	4			
219	185-47	Turkey Creek	3		2	3
219	185-48	Turkey Creek, Little	4			3
219	185-49	Turkey Creek, North Fork	3			
-	185-50	Tributary to Laurel Lake	3			
-	185-51	Unnamed Tributary to Watts Bar Reservoir	3			4
226	185-52	Whites Creek	1	2		1
218	185-53	Wolf Creek	2,4		2	1
231	185-A	Fish Camp Prong	-	-	-	-
230	185-B	Little River, West Prong	-	-	-	-



JEFF SAUSEL



Fishing Information: Downstream of Douglas Lake, the **French Broad** is a big river, spreading at least 100 yards in most places. From the dam to the State Highway 165 Bridge, where the river begins backing into Fort Loudon Lake, the French Broad supports a diverse mix of warm- and cool-water species. Smallmouths, which grow to jumbo proportions in the lower French Broad, are probably the most commonly targeted fish, followed by channel catfish. Saugers, walleyes and white bass also attract quite a bit of attention when they run up the river every spring.

Douglas Dam has multiple turbines and spillgates, and the river's character varies dramatically according to how much water is running. It also varies notably from place to place. The entire lower French Broad can be drifted in a canoe or small johnboat under most conditions, and much of it can be navigated with a jetboat. Some shoals can be waded when the river is down; some areas can be run in boats with prop motors if water is running through the dam. Access points are scattered all along the river, beginning with a TVA access point immediately downstream of the dam. Popular access points are located at the State Highway 66 Bridge, Seven Islands and Huffaker Ferry, and a good network of roads adds access all along the river.

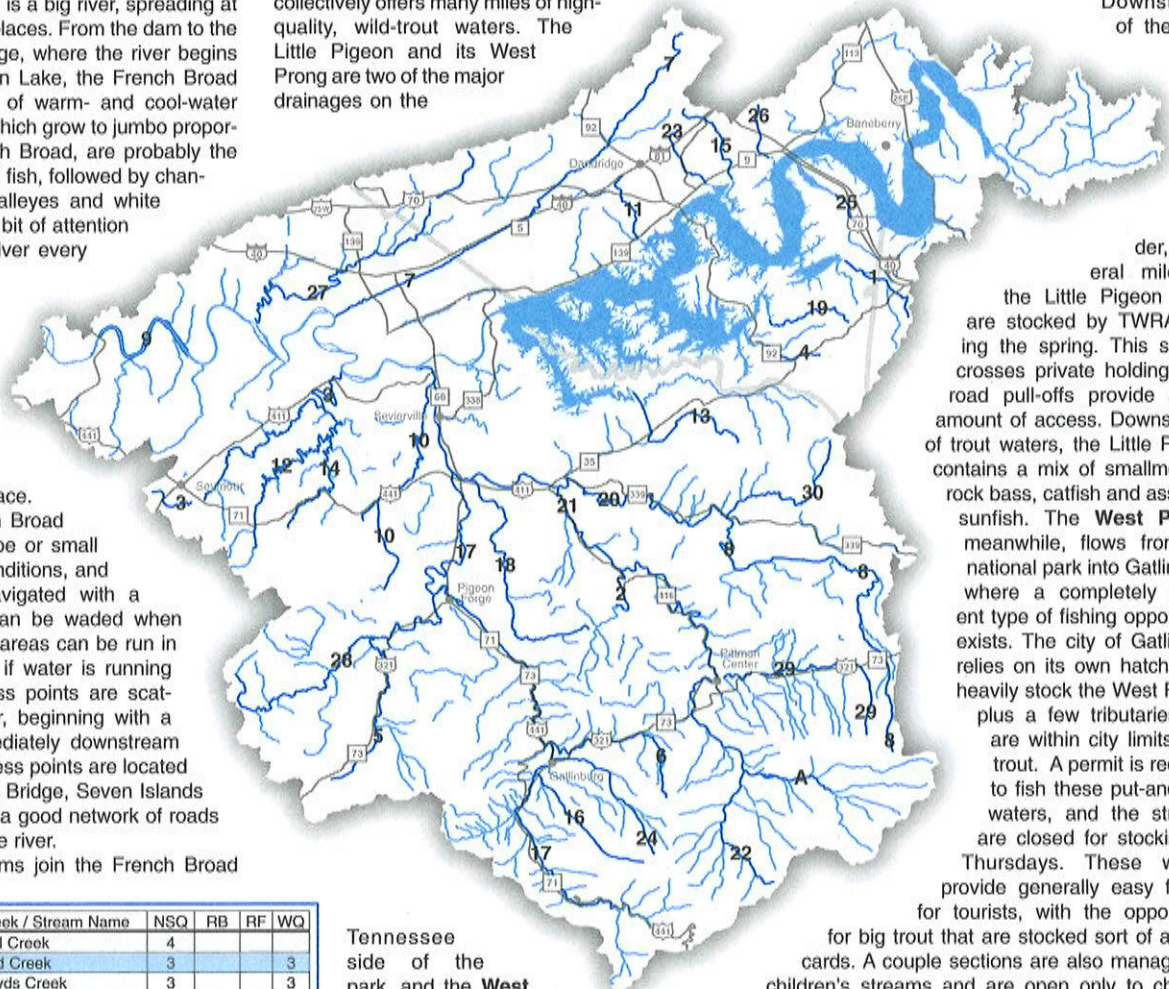
While several streams join the French Broad

between Douglas Dam and the river's terminus, virtually all worthwhile tributary fishing occurs in the **Little Pigeon River** system. Most of the branches that join forces to form the Little Pigeon River rise high along the northern slope of Great Smoky Mountains, and the Little Pigeon watershed

collectively offers many miles of high-quality, wild-trout waters. The Little Pigeon and its West Prong are two of the major drainages on the

so trout ambush meals opportunistically. However, the water stays extremely clear, making stealthy approaches and good presentations absolutely critical. Only single-hook artificial lures may be used or possessed throughout the national park, and a five-fish limit and seven-inch minimum size apply. Except on eight stream sections, all brook trout must be immediately released.

Downstream of the park



border, several miles of the Little Pigeon River are stocked by TWRA during the spring. This section crosses private holdings, but road pull-offs provide a fair amount of access. Downstream of trout waters, the Little Pigeon contains a mix of smallmouths, rock bass, catfish and assorted sunfish. The **West Prong**, meanwhile, flows from the national park into Gatlinburg, where a completely different type of fishing opportunity exists. The city of Gatlinburg relies on its own hatchery to heavily stock the West Prong, plus a few tributaries that are within city limits, with trout. A permit is required to fish these put-and-take waters, and the streams are closed for stocking on Thursdays. These waters provide generally easy fishing for tourists, with the opportunity

Tennessee side of the park, and the **West Prong** is actually one of the Smoky's best known streams because it runs much of its course beside Newfound Gap Road (U.S. Highway 441), which is the main north/south road through the park. The road parallels the river closely for more than ten miles, providing many access points; however, the river is steep and tumbling and often well below the road, keeping pressure light.

In addition to the main stems of both rivers, **Porters Creek, Middle Prong, Roaring Fork** and a few smaller tributaries offer several additional miles of fishable waters. Streams in the park have not been stocked for many years — so all the trout are wild. Rainbows predominate, but browns (including big browns) are part of the mix in the lower reaches of the Little Pigeon and the West Prong of the Little Pigeon. Most waters are tumbling and rugged, with cliff-bounded bends, river-wide drops and house-size boulders dividing flatter sections of gravel runs and pocket water. Smoky's streams aren't very fertile,

for big trout that are stocked sort of as wild cards. A couple sections are also managed as children's streams and are open only to children twelve and under — currently with a two-fish limit. From December 1 to March 31, only catch-and-release fishing with single-hook artificial lures is permitted in Gatlinburg waters, creating fun fishing opportunities for anglers who don't care about keeping trout during a time when Gatlinburg is far less busy.

Downstream of Gatlinburg, the West Prong becomes a meandering bass/sunfish stream, with the quality of the stream's offerings generally increasing as it grows in size. The lower end offers very good fishing for largemouths, spots and smallmouths. A wade-fishing stream, the West Prong is accessible in many places through Pigeon Forge and then Sevierville, where it adds its flow to the Little Pigeon. During March and April, the lower Little Pigeon and West Prong host some of the most exciting fishing that occurs in the entire French Broad watershed, according to fisheries biologist Bart Carter. Big smallmouths move up out of the main river, sometimes in very good numbers, to spawn, and anglers who are in the right place at the right time sometimes catch multiple three- to six-pound smallmouth from knee deep in a medium-sized stream!

AM	Key #	Creek / Stream Name	NSQ	RB	RF	WQ
222	186-1	Ball Creek	4			
221	186-2	Bird Creek	3			3
220-221	186-3	Boyd's Creek	3			3
232	186-4	Clear Creek	4			
231	186-5	Cove Creek	3		2	
231	186-6	Dudley Creek	2		1	4
221	186-7	Dumplin Creek	3		3	4
232	186-8	Dunn Creek	2			2
220-221	186-9	French Broad River	2,3	2,3		1,3
221	186-10	Gists Creek	3			1
222	186-11	Goose Creek	4			1
221	186-12	Happy Creek	3			3
221, 222	186-13	Hettie Creek				1
221	186-14	Knob Creek	3			
222	186-15	Koontz Creek	4			1
231	186-16	Leconte Creek	1			
221, 231	186-17	Little Pigeon River, West Prong	1,3	2		1,4
221	186-18	Middle Creek	4			
222	186-19	Muddy Creek	4			
221	186-20	Pigeon River, East Fork	3			2
221-222, 232	186-21	Pigeon River, Little	1,4	1,2,3	1	1,3
232	186-22	Porters Creek	1			
222	186-23	Rimmer Creek	4			1
231	186-24	Roaring Fork Creek	2			
222	186-25	Seahorn Creek	4			1
222	186-26	Spring Creek	4			1
220-221	186-27	Tuckahoe Creek	3		2	
221, 231	186-28	Walden Creek	3,4			1,4
232	186-29	Webb Creek	2			3
222	186-30	Willie Creek	2			
232	186-A	Little Pigeon River, Middle Prong	-	-	-	-