Fly Fishing

Where Whee Play

Whittier
Balsam
Sylva
Cullowhee
Webster
Dillsboro
Tuckasegee

11 Hot Spots Near WCU

Locations with Parking Information

1. Tuckasegee River:
   A. Upper Tuckasegee: East Laporte Park to NC 107 Bridge. Parking and access available at East Laporte Park and several pulls off along Old Cullowhee Road.
   B. Middle Tuckasegee: NC 107 Bridge to Dillsboro Park. Parking and access available via pulloff areas along North River Road.
   C. Lower Tuckasegee, Access available via pull off and businesses along 10-mile stretch of U.S. 19.

2. Cullowhee Creek, located on the outskirts of Western Carolina University.

3. Caney Fork, Access via Caney Fork Road off NC 107, avoid posted land.

4. Rough Butt Creek, Access via Moses Creek Road and Caney Fork Road off NC 107.

5. Pigeon Mountain Creek, Access via Moses Creek and Caney Fork Road off NC 107.

6. Moses Creek, Access via Moses Creek Road off of Caney Fork Road off NC 107.

7. Chattooga Creek, Access via Moses Creek Road off of Caney Fork Road off NC 107.

8. Mud Creek, Access via Moses Creek Road off of Caney Fork Road off NC 107. Avoid private lands.


10. Savannah Creek, Parking and Access available via several pull off areas along U.S. 23/441.

11. Greers Creek, Parking and Access available via pull off areas along Greers Creek Road.

NOTE: **Numbers will correlate with the numbers on the map.**

Other Places to fish a little bit farther…

- Nantahala River-45 minutes
- Pamahansett Creek-35 minutes
- Ocmulgee River-30 minutes (special permit required)
- Great Smoky Mountain National Park-30 minutes

Resources:

- Leave No Trace | lnt.org
- North Carolina Fish and Wildlife | ncfw.org
- WNC Fly Fishing Trail | flyfishingtrail.com

Fly Fishing Experiences

Joey Faison

"While fly fishing Bradley Fork, in the Smoky Mountains National Park, I hooked a 6-inch brown trout while an elk calf crossed the river."

Krista Robb

"Fly fishing is relaxing and provides a good opportunity to interact with the lesser known aquatic environment. Things such as reading the water flow, fish behaviors, and different kinds of water bugs can be observed and learned through fishing."

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Boomer Noteboom

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The Tuckasegee River is one of the most incredible places to fish and it’s right here in our backyard. It rivals many of the rivers out West for its number and size of rainbow, brook, and brown trout. The “Tuck,” as the locals call it, begins high in the Appalachian Mountains as many small streams and creeks converge. In addition to trout, as the waters warm up you will begin to see a good Smallmouth Bass population. Many people say the Tuck is some of the most impressive waters in the Eastern United States.

**What the Locals Catch**

- **Rainbow Trout**
- **Brook Trout**
- **Brown Trout**
- **Smallmouth Bass**

**Fly Patterns**

- **Dry Flies**: Patterns imitating the adult stage of aquatic insects like mayflies, caddis flies, stoneflies, midges or dragon flies.
- **Recommended patterns are Adams, Light Cahill, Eddy Caddis and Orange Stimulator.**
- **Streamers**: Designed to resemble some form of baitfish or other large aquatic prey. Great flies to use when water levels are high.
- **Recommended patterns are Wooly Bugger and the Muddler Minnow.**
- **Nymphs**: Most trout feeding is below surface where they forage on Nymphs. Insects drop their eggs on the surface and these drift to the bottom of streams and rivers where they stay until hatch and the newly developed nymphs are prime food for hungry trout.
- **Recommended patterns are Prince Nymphs, Pleasure Ticks and Hare’s Ear.**

**Safety Tips**

- Be aware of your surroundings when casting.
- Sunglasses protect your eyes from hooks and the sun.
- Shoes should always be worn to protect your feet from sharp objects.
- Dress for the weather.
- Carefully check the area before wading in.

**What’s in the Water?**

**Leave No Trace**

- Respect the Environment:
  - Properly dispose unwanted fishing line or trash.
  - Fish entrails and human waste should be buried 6-inches deep in the ground 200 feet from the water.
  - Pack it in, pack it out. Pack out everything you bring.
- Respect the Fish:
  - Cut barbs off of hooks to limit damage to the fish.
  - Keep only the fish you need and return others back into the water.
  - Limit the time the fish is out of water.
- Respect Others:
  - Keep a respectable distance from others recreating on the waters.
  - Be aware of designated public and private fishing areas.
  - Travel and fish quietly, not to disturb the fish or others.

Help provide a great fishing experience to the environment, the fish, and others by following Leave No Trace principles.

**Did You Know?**

All fishing waters listed in this brochure flow into the Gulf of Mexico. West of the Eastern Continental Divide, water from the Tuckasegee River flows into the Little Tennessee, followed by the Tennessee, Ohio, Mississippi rivers and eventually dumps into the Gulf of Mexico.

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**Licenses, Water Levels & Rules**

- A fishing license is required to fish in all areas. Licenses can be purchased online at www.ncwildlife.org or at Wal-Mart in the sporting goods section.
- The Tuckasegee River water level rises and lowers with release of the dam and rains.
- Fishing is not allowed in many locations during the month of March. Check the rules and regulations for further details.

**NC fishing regulations and rules can be found on the North Carolina Fish and Wildlife web site, ncwildlife.org, or in the fish and wildlife guide available at the Walmart sporting goods section.**