

Westfield River Catch-and-Release Area

Chesterfield/Huntington, MA

Cape Cod Watershed

USGS Quads: Westhampton, Goshen

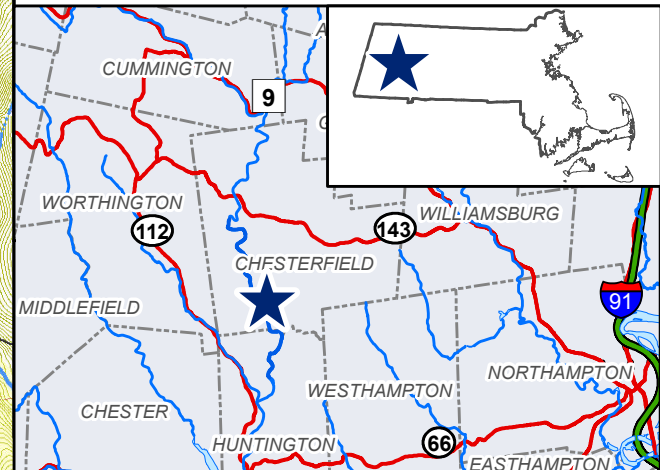
Legend

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | Catch and Release Area | | Pond, Lake |
| | Stream-Flow Direction | | Wetland |
| | Dirt Road | | Wildlife Management Area |
| | Major Road | | Other Conservation Land |
| | Road | | Gate |
| | Parking | | |

The East Branch Westfield River Catch-and-Release Area extends from the Chesterfield Gorge parking lot in Chesterfield downstream seven miles to a gate north of the Army Corps of Engineers basin parking lot at Knightville in the town of Huntington.

Map updated July, 2017

Elevation contours: 3 Meters



0 1/2 1 Miles



DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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Westfield River Catch and Release Area: Chesterfield/Huntington

General Information

The East Branch of the Westfield River is located in western Massachusetts, flowing out of the Berkshire Plateau and emptying into the Connecticut River 33 miles downstream in Agawam. The Catch-and-Release Area begins at Chesterfield Gorge and extends 7 miles downstream to a gate at the Army Corps of Engineers parking lot near the Knightville Dam in Huntington. The river flows through an undeveloped, rugged, and heavily forested gorge. This section contains many large rocks and boulders. The river is a series of deep runs and riffles with a few large slow pools. The steep gradient can sometimes lead to dramatic fluctuations in seasonal and storm-triggered river flow with occasional flooding.

Fish Populations

The excellent water quality and relatively cool water temperatures in the Westfield can support coldwater fish like trout year round, although summer water temperatures in certain sections of the river can drive trout to seek refuge in coldwater tributaries or deep pools. Fish surveys conducted by MassWildlife have found Brown, Rainbow, and Brook Trout, as well as Fallfish, Common Shiner, and White Sucker.

Recreational Access

There is excellent access to the Westfield Catch-and-Release Area on the west side of the river. Upstream, there is a parking area at Chesterfield Gorge which is owned and operated by the Trustees of Reservations (a small fee may apply). A popular scenic area, this part of the river can get crowded, especially on weekends. At the downstream end, the river is accessible from a dirt road at the Knightville Dam Recreation Area, operated by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE). A dirt road runs the length of the west side of the river but has a series of gates which are often closed, so it is best accessed on foot. It is more difficult to access the Westfield Catch-and-Release Area from the east side of the river, though much of the land is publicly owned. On the east side, there is a small dirt parking area outside ACE's Indian Hollow gate that can accommodate several vehicles.

Fishing

Fishing is allowed with artificial lures only and all fish must be released. The use of natural or artificial baits such as worms, shiners or other live bait, cheese, corn, or fish eggs is prohibited. MassWildlife stocks the Westfield with a large number of catchable-size Rainbow Trout every spring and, depending on conditions, in the fall. The Westfield also receives a fairly large stocking of catchable-size Brown and Brook Trout each spring. Spring through fall, in all but the warmest years, the Westfield River Catch-and-Release Area provides high quality fishing opportunities for stocked and holdover Brook, Brown, and Rainbow Trout, as well as wild Brook Trout that move into the main stem from tributaries.

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