

Dowagiac River City of Niles Park



Fish Species

Brown Trout

Species Description

Upstream of Pucker Street Dam most brown trout are 8-12 inches, but fish larger than 20 inches are commonly reported by anglers. Brown trout up to 23 inches have been collected during the DNR Fisheries surveys. Downstream of Pucker Street Dam many brown trout larger than 20 inches are captured in this part of the river. Adult steelhead average 7-10 lbs. Chinook Salmon and Coho Salmon sizes vary depending on prey fish abundance in Lake Michigan. Mostly resident fish, but some brown trout move into the river from Lake Michigan. Wild steelhead adults are present most of the year. Wild Chinook and Coho salmon are present in September-mid October.

Geographic Coordinates

Lat:41.865092 / Long:-86.243557

Noteworthy

The current is swift and many spots are too deep to wade. Anglers often fish from shore below the dam or launch at the City of Niles property and fish out of a canoe or rowboat.

Fishing Regulations

Upstream of Pucker Street Dam is a designated Type 4 trout stream. Brown trout are stocked in this stream reach annually. There may be some immigration of wild fish from tributary streams. Downstream of Pucker Street Dam is a designated Type 3 trout stream. Please refer to the Inland Trout and Salmon Stream Regulations in the current Michigan Fishing Guide for regulations for both areas. Downstream of the dam is a mixture of stocked and wild brown trout.

Directions to Site

The City of Niles Park is located off Pucker Street about 0.2 miles west of the M-51 intersection. A gravel parking lot and carry-in access for canoes or small boats is available. Canoes/boats must be carried a distance of 100 ft from the parking lot to the launch area below the dam. This site used to be called Losensky Park. There is also a place to take out canoes upstream of the Pucker Street Dam and portage (~300 ft) around the dam.

Regional Visitor Information (URL)

swmichigan.org