

# New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Fish & Wildlife

## **2025 SPRING TROUT STOCKING PROGRAM**

### **Bonus Broodstock Ponds and Lakes**

Each spring NJDEP Fish & Wildlife stocks over 570,000 trout in nearly 200 streams, lakes, and ponds statewide. This popular program provides a variety of trout fishing opportunities for more than 100,000 anglers. The trout are reared at Fish & Wildlife's Pequest Trout Hatchery, and most of the trout stocked in the spring are 1½ years old and average 10½ inches and ½ pound each. However, some of the trout that are stocked every spring are considerably larger, weighing 3 to 7 pounds each and ranging from 18 to 24 inches. These large trout are called "broodstock" or "breeders" because they are mature fish (3½ years old) that were used the previous fall to obtain and fertilize eggs as part of the hatchery's continuous production cycle. After the broodstock are spawned in the hatchery, some are stocked in the fall while the majority are stocked the following spring, primarily before the opening day of the spring trout season.

To increase interest and excitement in this popular springtime angling activity, Fish & Wildlife stocks higher numbers of broodstock in a few (9 - 10) trout-stocked ponds and small lakes. Each spring a different set of waters receives about three to five times more broodstock than they traditionally receive. 10 waters were selected for 2025 and are listed in the table below and shown on the attached map. By concentrating 400 of these large trout in 10 relatively small lakes and ponds, it is expected that angler participation and satisfaction will increase as anglers catch these trout themselves or observe others catching them. The bonus broodstock trout are stocked prior to the opening day of the trout season on Saturday, April 5, 2025.

<b>2025 BONUS BROODSTOCK PONDS AND LAKES</b>					
Waterbody	County	Waterbody Size (acres)	2025 Pre-Season Trout Allocation <sup>1</sup>	Number of Broodstock Trout Stocked Pre-Season	
				2025	2024
Birch Grove Park Pond	Atlantic	12	400	50	10
Burnham Park Pond	Morris	4	350	30	5
Dahnert's Lake	Bergen	3	260	30	5
Franklin Lake	Monmouth	15	370	30	5
Lower Echo Park Pond	Union	7	410	30	10
Mountain Farm Pond	Hunterdon	5	370	30	5
Shaws Mill Pond	Cumberland	28	530	50	10
Spooky Brook Park Pond	Somerset	12	400	50	10
Sylvan Lake	Burlington	12	440	50	10
Verona Park Lake	Essex	13	490	50	10
<sup>1</sup> The pre-season allocation includes both the production size trout (10 ½ inch average size) and the broodstock. The pre-season trout allocation is stocked prior to Opening Day.					

Directions to these and other trout-stocked waters can be found on Fish and Wildlife's Website at <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/freshwater/trout-waters-by-county/> (Fishing Access Locations on Trout Waters).

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**BONUS BROODSTOCK WATERS**

