

St. Joseph River Benton Township River Park Boat Launch



Fish Species

Steelhead

Species Description

Adult Steelhead average 7-10 lbs. Chinook Salmon and Coho Salmon sizes vary depending on prey fish abundance in Lake Michigan. A mixture of stocked fish and wild brown trout from tributaries can be found. Brown trout are rare in this stream reach, but a few fish move upstream from Lake Michigan during the fall and other fish may occasionally move into the river from tributary streams. Steelhead (mixture of stocked fish and wild fish from tributaries) are the primary species targeted by anglers. Steelhead are most abundant during September through April. Some steelhead move into the river during the summer, but these fish have to take refuge in or at the mouths of coldwater tributaries during hot weather. Wild and stocked Chinook and Coho salmon are present in September-mid October.

Geographic Coordinates

Lat:42.063339 / Long:-86.449332

Noteworthy

This stretch of the St. Joseph River is navigable. During all seasons, boaters should be alert for shallow riffles, boulders, and logs. This is especially true during low water periods. There is a rustic toilet at the site. This portion of the St. Joseph River also provides good fishing for smallmouth bass, walleyes, channel catfish, and flathead catfish.

Fishing Regulations

The St. Joseph River is a designated Type 3 trout stream. Please refer to the Inland Trout and Salmon Stream Regulations in the current Michigan Fishing Guide.

Directions to Site

The Benton Township River Park access site is located a short distance downstream of the I-94 bridge. From I-94, take Exit 28 and head north on M-139. The first crossroad is Ferguson Road. Turn left (west) on Ferguson Road and drive to the T-intersection with Summerlayton Road. Turn left (south) and drive 0.8 miles to the access site. There is a concrete boat ramp and a paved parking lot with 111 spaces. This site is 6 miles upstream of Lake Michigan.

Regional Visitor Information (URL)

stjoetoday.com