

Fishing Tips for Goodrich Creek

Like most spring creek fisheries Goodrich Creek offers a wide variety of challenges for the angler. Here are a few tips and tricks that will help you make the most of your stay at Goodrich Creek. The most important tip of all is to stay late. The fishing is usually good the last hour before dark.

Stealth

Since Goodrich is a small stream you must exercise a stealthy approach to catch fish. It is important to approach the stream carefully and be aware that since the banks are undercut if you tread heavily the fish will know that you are there. Try to keep a low profile and avoid wearing bright clothing. You want to blend in with the environment not stand out from it. The crystal clear water of the creek means that you will be able to see many of the fish you are trying to catch. Remember; if you can see them they can see you!

Fish the Wind

The beautiful open meadow that Goodrich flows through is almost always the recipient of afternoon winds. The afternoon wind will blow terrestrial insects like grasshoppers, ants and beetles into the water. It will also help to camouflage the angler. The afternoon is a perfect time to fish terrestrials such as grasshoppers, beetles and ants.

Look before you cast

Spend a few minutes carefully observing the section of stream you are going to fish before you cast. Approach the water carefully. You do not want to cast over a group of fish to get to one on the far bank. Work your way over to a rising fish rather than casting directly to it.

Try a Streamer

Goodrich Creek fish respond well to baitfish and leech imitations. If you run into fish that do not seem interested in nymphs or dries it can pay off to run a streamer through them. We find that some days fish respond well to a very fast stripped streamer or swinging the fly with the current. Early morning and late evening are prime times to fish a streamer.

Check your leader and tippet

Be sure to check your leader and tippet frequently, you do not want to lose a big fish due to a faulty knot or a weakened leader. Any time that you hang up your fly on the grass or other obstruction you should check your connections. A few minutes spent retying may help to land the fish of a lifetime.

Fight fish quickly and release them carefully

It is very important that fish be fought quickly and released carefully if they are to survive to take a fly again. It is better to fight a fish hard and occasionally lose one than to fight a fish until it dies and cannot provide a thrill for another angler. Do not beach fish or lay them in the grass out of the stream. Trout are very delicate creatures that should be handled with the utmost care. We recommend a soft mesh landing net that will allow you to

keep the fish in the water so you can gently remove the fly, snap a quick picture and release the fish to be caught again. Do not ever stick your fingers into a fishes gills, this is like puncturing a lung to you or I. The fish that you carefully release can provide the same thrill for another angler that it did for you. We recommend you use a 5 or 6 weight rod with 3x to 5x tippet while fishing at Goodrich Creek. Do Not forget to pinch down your barbs.

Fishing equipment checklist

____ Leaders ____ Tippet ____ Flies
____ Rods ____ Reels ____ waders
____ Boots ____ Net ____ Camera
____ Polarized sunglasses ____ Hat ____ Sunscreen
____ Insect repellent ____ Water ____ Vest or day pack
____ Pliers ____ Rain jacket ____ Flashlight

Flies for Goodrich Creek

Listed below are the flies that we have found to be most effective at Goodrich. Do not be afraid to try some of your own patterns while you are there. Remember your approach is as important as the fly itself.

Nymphs

HBI's 14 - 18, Pheasant tail nymph 12 - 20, Prince Nymph 12-16, Z-wing Caddis 14 - 16, Hares Ear 10 - 18, Burk's Aggravator Nymph, 10, Copper John 14 - 18, Hexagenia Nymph 6 - 8, Little Yellow Stone Nymph 14 - 16, Micro mayfly 16 - 20, Poxyback Callibaetis 16, PMD's 16 - 18, Birds Nest 12 - 16,

Dries

Parachute Adams 14 - 22, Elk Hair Caddis 14 - 18, E/C Caddis 14 - 18, Light Cahill 16 - 20, Humpies 16 - 20, Royal Wulf 16 - 18, Rusty Spinner 16 -20, Callibaetis Dun 16, PMD Dun 16 - 20, Mahogany Dun 16, BWO 16 - 18, Stimulators 12 - 16, Green Drakes 10 - 12, Hexegenia Adults and Emergers 6 - 8, Trico spinners 20 - 22, Beetles 12 - 18, Black Ants 10 - 14, Grasshoppers 8 - 14. Parachute Hares Ear 15 - 17. Little Yellow Stone 16.

Streamers

Leeches Black and Olive 8 -10, Woolly Buggers and Crystal Buggers Olive Black and Brown 6 - 12, Burk's Aggravator Nymph Black and Prince color 10, Muddlers 6 - 10, Stanley Streamers 6, Matukas 8.

Final Notes on Flies

There are a lot of different flies that will work at Goodrich Creek so do not be afraid to bring your favorites. Every year we have stories about a new fly. Feel free to call the shop before you go to find out the latest information. Always remember your approach is as important as the fly you have on. Always pinch down your barbs on your flies before fishing.