Welcome to our waterways.
Gorgeous rivers, lakes, and streams criss-cross Elkhart County’s landscape. Guess what’s in the water? Right, fish! Elkhart County has countless opportunities for catching fish, and you don’t need to be an expert to catch a few.

This brochure does not provide an exhaustive list of the fishing opportunities available in Elkhart County – here, we’re just sharing a few of our favorites.

Get a license.
If you are over the age of 18, you typically need a license to fish in Indiana. A fishing license allows you to catch and release any fish species in Elkhart County. However, there are size and quantity restrictions for keeping certain fish species. For more information on fishing regulations, visit the Indiana DNR Web site: https://www.in.gov/dnr/.

Licenses can be purchased online from the Indiana DNR or from 10 official locations in Elkhart County, including all Wal-Mart stores, Big R stores, Varns and Hoover Hardware in Middlebury, and Millersburg Lumber. Children who are 17 and younger do not need a license; adults over 64 can apply for a lifetime fishing license.

The Indiana DNR offers four free fishing days, where a license is not required. Visit the Indiana DNR Web site for up-to-date information on free fishing days: https://www.in.gov/dnr/.

Get your gear.
If you don’t have fishing gear, you can rent it! The City of Goshen offers fishing pole rentals at Fidler Pond Park (1424 Lincolnway East, Goshen; (574)534-2901). The City of Elkhart offers fishing pole rentals during their annual “Family Fish Fest” event in early June.

Safety first.
To ensure your safety, always wear your Personal Flotation Device (PFD); fish with a friend; and handle fish and fishing tackle responsibly.

Also remember … respect private property, leave no trace, and be courteous and considerate of the waterways and of others enjoying them.

About us.
The mission of the Elkhart County Waterways Alliance is to promote and enhance recreation and sustainability of connected waterways in Elkhart County through improved:
- Access
- Management
- Education
- Advocacy

Our partners.

Follow us.
Elkhart County Waterways Alliance

Like us on Facebook for the latest news on Elkhart County’s waterways! Share photos of your most recent catch, learn about upcoming events, and more.

Guide created May 2019

Common Water Trails

a resource guide produced by the Elkhart County Waterways Alliance
Our favorite fishing spots on the St. Joseph River (upstream to downstream)

1. Congdon Park (200 N Division St, Bristol)
   Good for shoreline and small boat fishing
2. Nibbyville (20704 CR 8, Bristol)
   Good for shoreline, small boat, and large boat fishing
3. Martin’s Landing (1400 E Jackson Blvd, Elkhart)
   Good for shoreline fishing
4. Downtown Elkhart
   - Johnson Street Dam (225 N Elkhart Ave): Good for shoreline fishing
   - Island Park (N Main St & E Sycamore St): Good for shoreline fishing
5. McNaughton Park (701 Arcade Ave, Elkhart)
   Good for shoreline fishing

Our favorite fishing spots on the Elkhart River (upstream to downstream)

6. Violett Cemetery (2818 Violett Rd, Goshen, IN)
   Good for shoreline fishing
7. Goshen Dam
   (Westwood Rd and Fair Oaks Dr, Goshen)
   Good for shoreline fishing
8. Shanklin Park (411 W Plymouth Ave, Goshen)
   Good for shoreline fishing
9. Rogers Park (102 Chicago Ave, Goshen)
   Good for shoreline fishing

Our favorite fishing spots on other waterways (counter-clockwise from top)

10. Trout Creek at CR 2 (41.574185, -85.813698)
    Good for shoreline fishing and wading
4. High Dive Park (500 E Beardsley Ave)
    Good for shoreline fishing, good for novice anglers and families
11. Hayden Park Pond (1699 Bower St, Elkhart)
    Good for shoreline fishing
12. Fidler Pond Park (1424 Lincolnway East, Goshen)
    Good for shoreline fishing; good for novice anglers and families
13. Riverbend Park (511 E Warren St, Middlebury)
    Good for shoreline fishing and wading; good for novice anglers and families
14. Bonneyville Mill County Park (53373 CR 131, Bristol)
    Good for shoreline fishing and wading.