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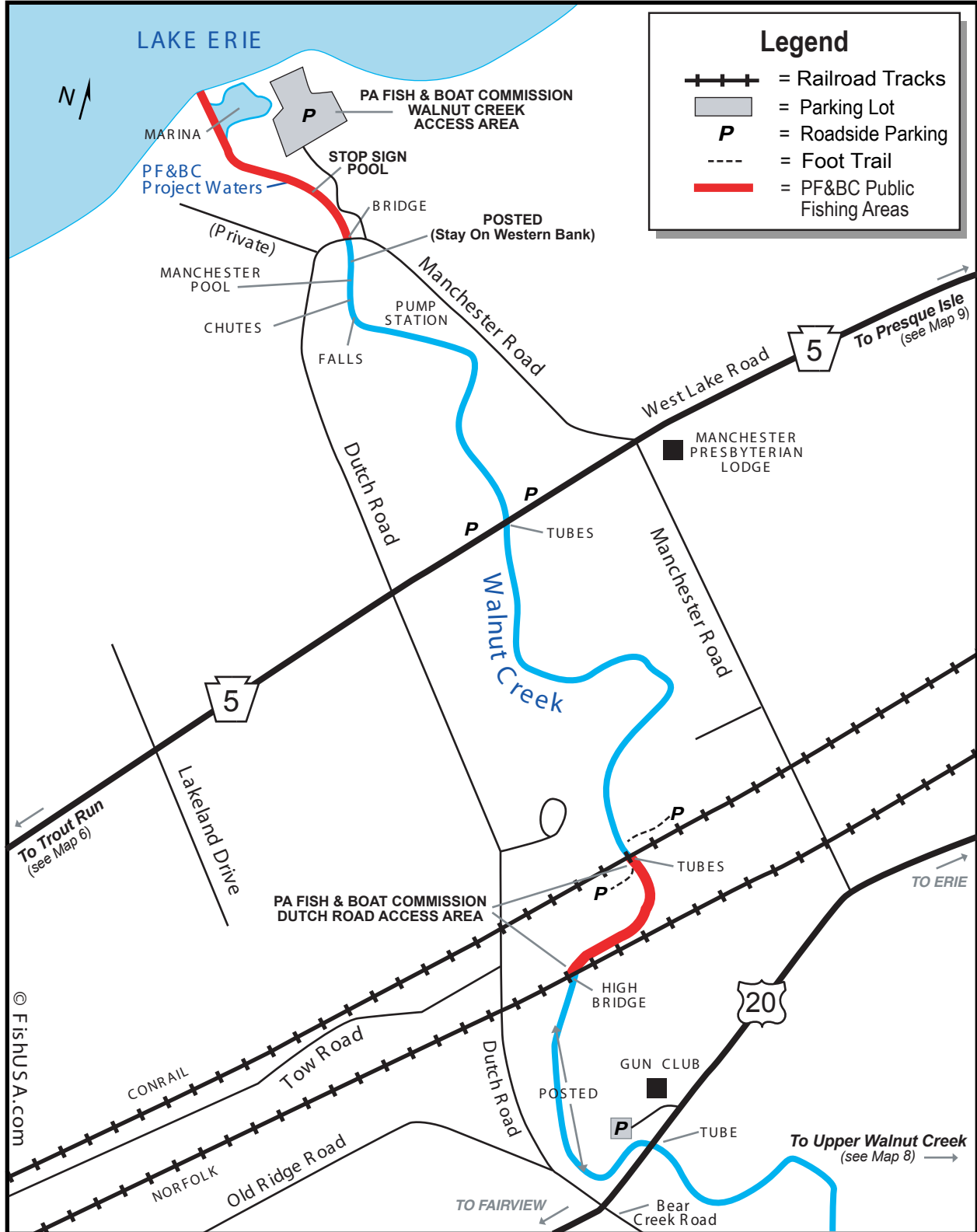
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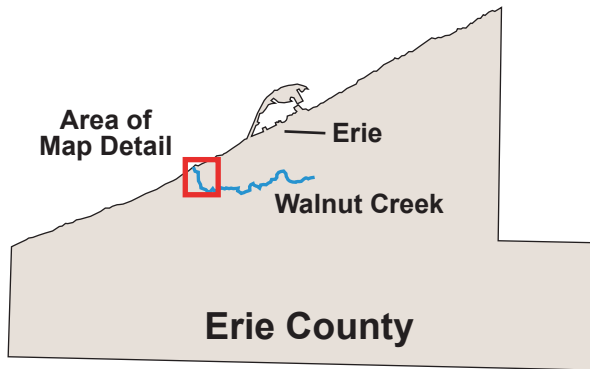
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 Store Hours: 8 a.m - 8 p.m. Mon. - Fri. 24/7 On The Web

Map 7 - Lower Walnut Creek





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Walnut Creek is the second largest and second most popular creek for steelhead fishing in Pennsylvania. Walnut begins south of the Millcreek Mall (which is just east of the Kearsarge exit (Exit 180) of Interstate 79). It flows northwest through Millcreek Township, north through Fairview Township and enters Lake Erie east of the town of Fairview. During the summer and fall, the lower reaches of Walnut hold bass, panfish, catfish and carp. Like the other creeks in the watershed, by May most parts of the creek are low and too warm for trout and the fishing for steelhead is over.

Walnut Creek Access Area

The Fish and Boat Commission maintains the Walnut Creek Access Area at the mouth of Walnut Creek. There is a marina with paved parking lots, a building with Fish and Boat Commission officials, a weigh station, ice and rest rooms. The launch ramps and docks are removed after the last Sunday in October, and after that fishing is permitted in the marina itself. The building closes in December. Fishing along the wall between the marina and the mouth of the creek is popular, especially in the fall. During the early steelhead season, steelhead may be present only in this area.

During the summer of 1999 the Fish and Boat Commission, with the financial assistance of local contributors, created several new pools between the marina and the first bridge. This has become known as the "project waters." The objective was to create additional fishing opportunities on Walnut Creek on public property owned by the Commission. Many of these new pools hold many fish during the season. The only area on Walnut Creek open to fishing at all hours is this Access Area north of the first bridge.

The first original pool, referred to as the "Manchester Hole," is one of the most popular spots for steelhead fishing. This pool is located just south of the Manchester/Dutch Road bridge, just upstream from the access area and project waters. To fish the Manchester Hole, you must park in the access area and either walk up the west bank, or walk along the street and enter on the west bank. The Manchester Hole is located entirely on private property. Fishing is permitted only on the west side. Please do not wade on the east side of the hole south of the bridge. The Fish and Boat Commission owns the small parcel of land just west of the Manchester Hole. This provides access to the west side of the stream where fishing is permitted.

Just upstream from the Manchester Hole is the "chutes" area. It is a short area of fast chutes, and often holds many fish. Upstream from the chutes are several pools, then a waterfall. Often the steelhead have a difficult time getting over this waterfall. As a result, if the stream flow is low, fish stacked-up below the waterfall, and there are few fish anywhere above it.

Once the fish have made it past the waterfall, Walnut Creek is fished extensively from the first pool to the Route 5 bridge, and upstream to the tubes.

Dutch Road Public Access Area

In 2008 the PFBC acquired ownership of 19 acres between the Conrail railroad tracks and the Norfolk railroad tracks. The parcel was purchased using Lake Erie permit monies and includes over 900 feet of frontage on Walnut Creek from the Conrail tubes upstream to the high railroad trestle of the Norfolk tracks. There is heavy rail traffic along these tracks so use caution when accessing the stream. Access the area by walking down the gated road on the south side of the Conrail tracks to the stream. There is a large pool on the north side of the tubes where fish stack until high water events. Moving upstream along the wall on the eastern bank south of the tubes usually holds a few fish. The next area to fish is about 150 yards upstream after the stream bends to the left. There is a small but nice hole just downstream of the high bridge.

All other locations on Lower Walnut Creek are on private property. Stream access is still allowed in some areas. Please pay attention to signs and ask for permission to fish if you are unsure of access rights.