

**JUNE 2014
OUTING**

LITTLE ELKHART RIVER



Date: JUNE 22,2014

Where: Little Elkart River in Middlebury, IN

Lunch at 12:30 at River Bend Park Pavilion, Middlebury, IN.

We will be grilling out – the club will furnish the meat.

Bring a dish (optional), chair and something to drink.

Come join us for fun and fellowship as we fish the Little Elkhart River. The Little Elkhart is a small, beautiful Northern Indiana stream. The stream rises in southern LaGrange County and flows in a northwesterly direction through cropland, deep woods, pastures, parks and residential backyards before entering the St. Joseph River at Bristol. Trout are found throughout its length. Various sections offer different types of water. The headwaters are narrow and shallow. Downstream is deeper and broader. Yet, it is a fragile stream for trout.

LECTU President Mike Beachy has offered to make himself available to meet up and answer questions when people arrive at the park

Catch and Release Access Points



LECTU installing catch and release signs

There are several access points to the Little Elkhart River. The outing will focus mainly on the access points within the catch and release area. This is a 2 mile section of the Little Elkhart that runs from the bridge on country road 43 to the foot bridge just upstream from Riverbend Park. This entire section can be waded as long as you stay in the water or along the shore. The main access points will be within this area. Please refer to the map on the last page. LECTU installed several signs indicating the catch and release section of the Little Elkhart River. In this area you can not possess any trout or natural bait. Only artificial lures and artificial flies can be used in this area. All other parts of the river have a five trout limit however only one may be a brown trout.

- 1 County Road 43 Bridge**

The catch and release area starts here and goes for the next two miles down-stream. Fishing can be done either upstream to Hwy 20 or downstream. Home-owner permission is not needed as LECTU has made agreements with the land owners. Rowe-Eden Ditch is just downstream from the bridge and can also hold fish. Rowe-Eden typically runs 5 degrees cooler than the Little Elkhart. Vehicles can be parked alongside the road.
- 2 Spring Street**

Spring Street ends in a cul-de-sac. There is a trail that leads back to the river. Fishing can be done upstream or down. This access point is in the middle of the lower half of the catch and release area. By sticking to the edge of the river, fishing can be done all the way upstream to CR 43.
- 3 Riverbend Park**

Riverbend Park has both plenty of parking and easy access to the river. Fishing can be done both upstream or down. There is a trail system that runs upstream from the edge of the park. The trail leads to the foot bridge that marks the lower boundary.

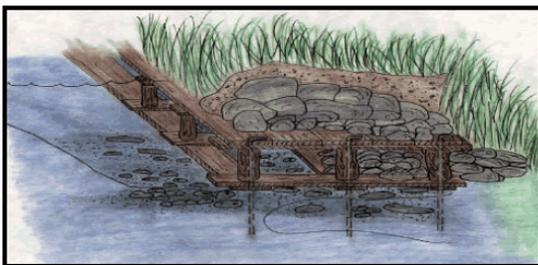
Other Access Points

4 CR35
Upstream is very good. This is like a classic trout stream. Can wade upstream all the way to the next bridge. Only about 3/4 mile or so of this stretch is good trout fishing. After that, it flattens out but becomes a good bass fishery. Wading can be done downstream all the way to Bonneyville Mill Park, but fishing downstream is a little tougher. Parking can be done on both sides of the bridge.

5 Bonneyville Mill Park
There is plenty of parking at the Kim Mol Rie shelter area, and a trail leads down to the river. Trails along the river offer easy access. It can get deep in this area. Fishing can be done upstream or down. Wade upstream all the way to Eby Pines campground. There is a really nice area behind Eby Pines, but they will charge to drive back there.

6 Bristol Area
There are several access points in Bristol. There is a public access launch site to the St. Joseph river at the mouth of the Little Elkhart. A second spot is near the Little Elkhart River bridge on Hwy 120 east of Bristol. This section of the river has lots of rocky riffles, but also some very deep holes. So be careful when fishing this section.

Little Elkhart River Conservation



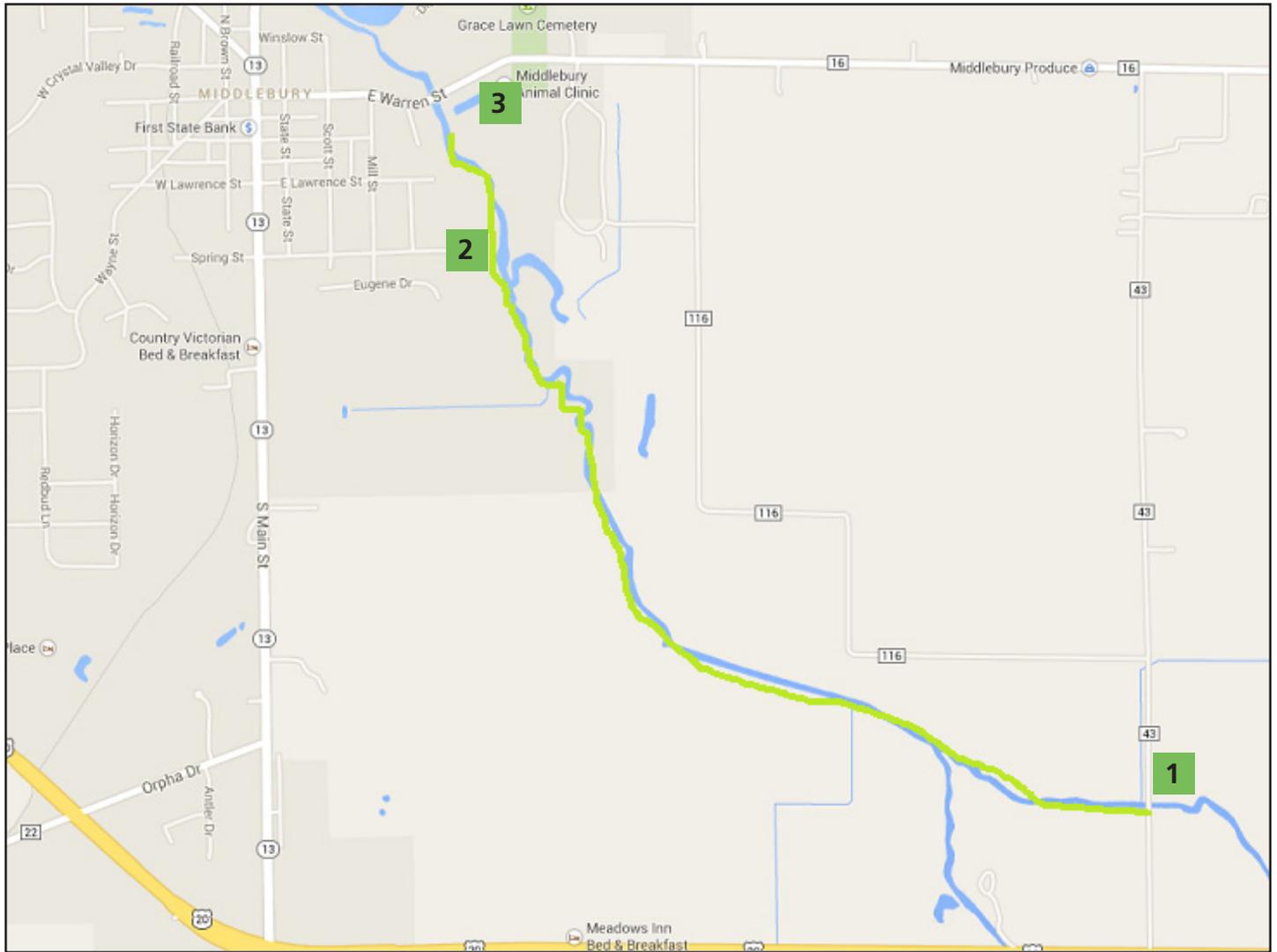
Lunker Structure
adapted from "Trout Stream Therapy"

Figure 46

Lunker Structures

The trail upstream from Riverbend Park leads past the lunker structures that were added to the river last year. These structures are like large pallets, 4 feet wide by 8 feet long and about 2 feet tall. The river bank was dug out and these structures were anchored in place and then covered with rock and back-filled. These structures give the fish a place out of the main current to use as ambush points. Look for the riprap on the outside bend along the trail.

Access Points Maps



Catch and release area is highlighted in green

