



Overlooked Big Fish

Fishing The Southern Wisconsin
Tributaries With New Insights



A Case For Fishing The Tribs

1. Easy Logistics
2. Improving conditions
3. Big Hot Fish





CHICAGO FLY FISHING
GUTTRITZER







Improving Waters

Less crowded than a few years ago

Habitat improved and increased

Bigger fish with Gobies as prey











Where Are We Fishing?

Pike River - Petrifying Springs Park, between County Highways A & E, The mouth at Lake Michigan

Root River - Island Park, Lincoln Park, Colonial Park, Quarry Park, Horlick Dam

Oak Creek - Below Mill Pond

Milwaukee River - Hubbard, Capitol Drive, Estabrook, Kletzsch Dam, Grafton / Thiensville

Menomonee River(South Version)- Wauwautosa, Three Brides

Pike River

Access the Pike at the mouth,
between County Highways A and
E, or Petrifying Springs Park

Obey all parking signs

Keep your feet wet, if out of the
park or through golf courses and
private property



Upper Pike Map & Info

Access the upper Pike at
Petrifying Springs Park

Fish within the park

Look for 20 - 100 cfs flows

Fish do go upstream of
Petrifying Springs, but access
is very limited

Access downstream is also
very limited



Middle Pike Map & Info

Access the middle Pike at
County Highways A & E

Fish downstream of A or
upstream of E

Keep your feet wet,
landowners in this stretch are
protective - your reward for
dealing with them is solitude

Access is very limited above
and below this stretch

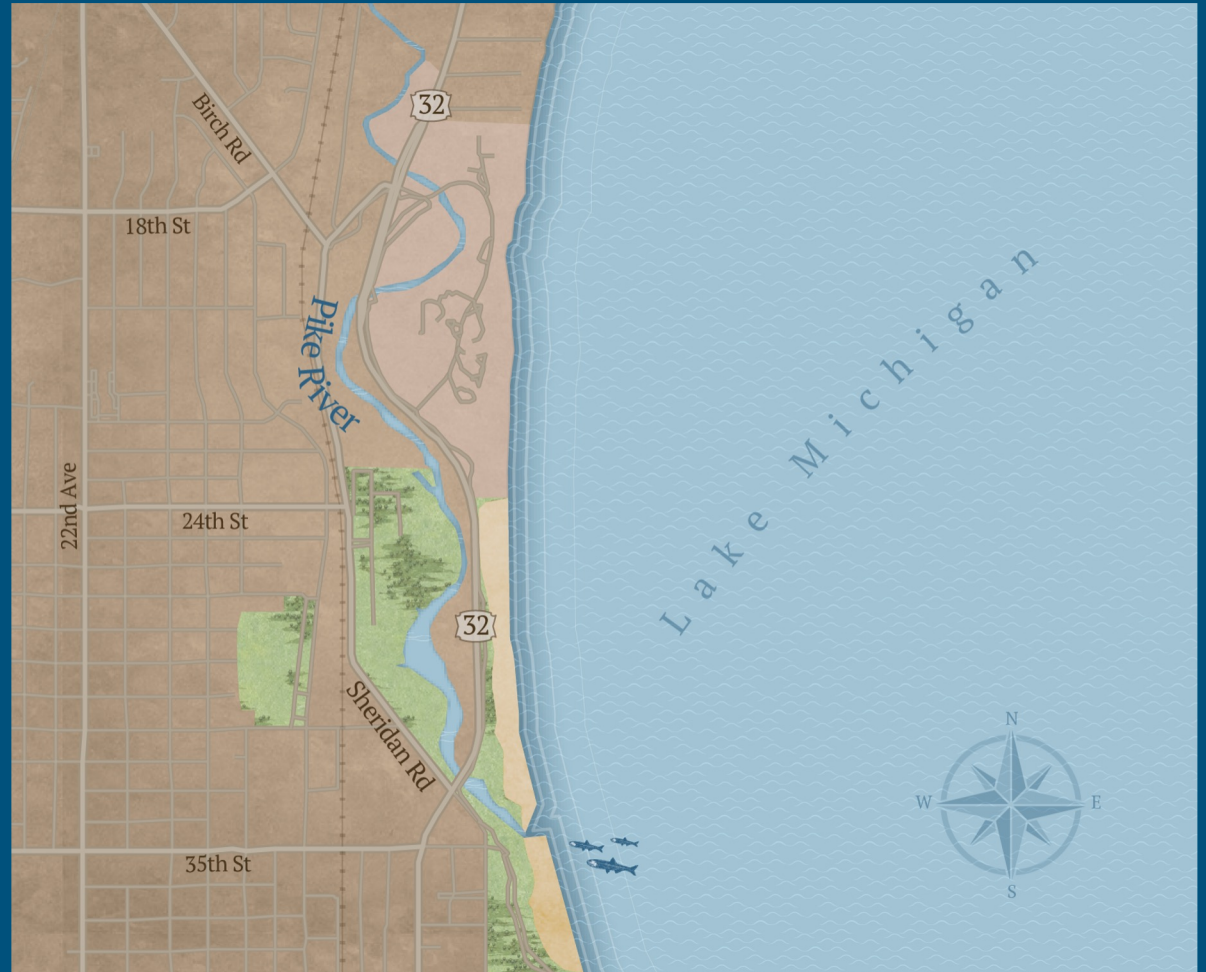


Lower Pike Map & Info

Access the lower Pike at the park near the beach on Lake Michigan

The mouth is a great place to swing in high flows during colder months

Very little access exists upstream until you get to County Highway E



REST
ROOMS







Petrifying Springs Park

Need flows 20-80 cfs

New habitat opened

Catch Salmon in the Fall then hit the Biergarten for beer and food!





Root River

Island Park

Lincoln Park

Colonial Park - @ High Street

Quarry Park

Horlick Dam

Look for 70 - 500 cfs flows



Upper Root Map & Info

Access the upper Root at Horlick Dam, Quarry Park, Colonial Park, or Lincoln Park

Fish stop at Horlick Dam, don't bother trying above it



Lower Root Map & Info

Access the lower Root at
Island Park, Cedar Bend Park,
or Clayton Park

Few fly fishing opportunities
exist below Clayton



















Oak Creek

Short and sweet

Look for 20 - 70 cfs flows

Fish are almost always present
from early Fall - late Spring



Oak Creek Map & Info

Access along Oak Creek
Parkway below Mill Road, or
at mouth in the park / beach

Fish up or down

Obey all parking signs

Fish stop at the dam, and so
should you. No Trout or
Salmon get above it





Chrome!!!

Generally stronger and fresher fish on Oak

Always new fish to chase, especially after each high water event

When other places are blown out, Oak is your best bet









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Milwaukee River

Hubbard Park

Capitol Drive

Estabrook Park

Kletsch Dam

Grafton / Thiensville

Look for 400 - 1100 cfs
flows



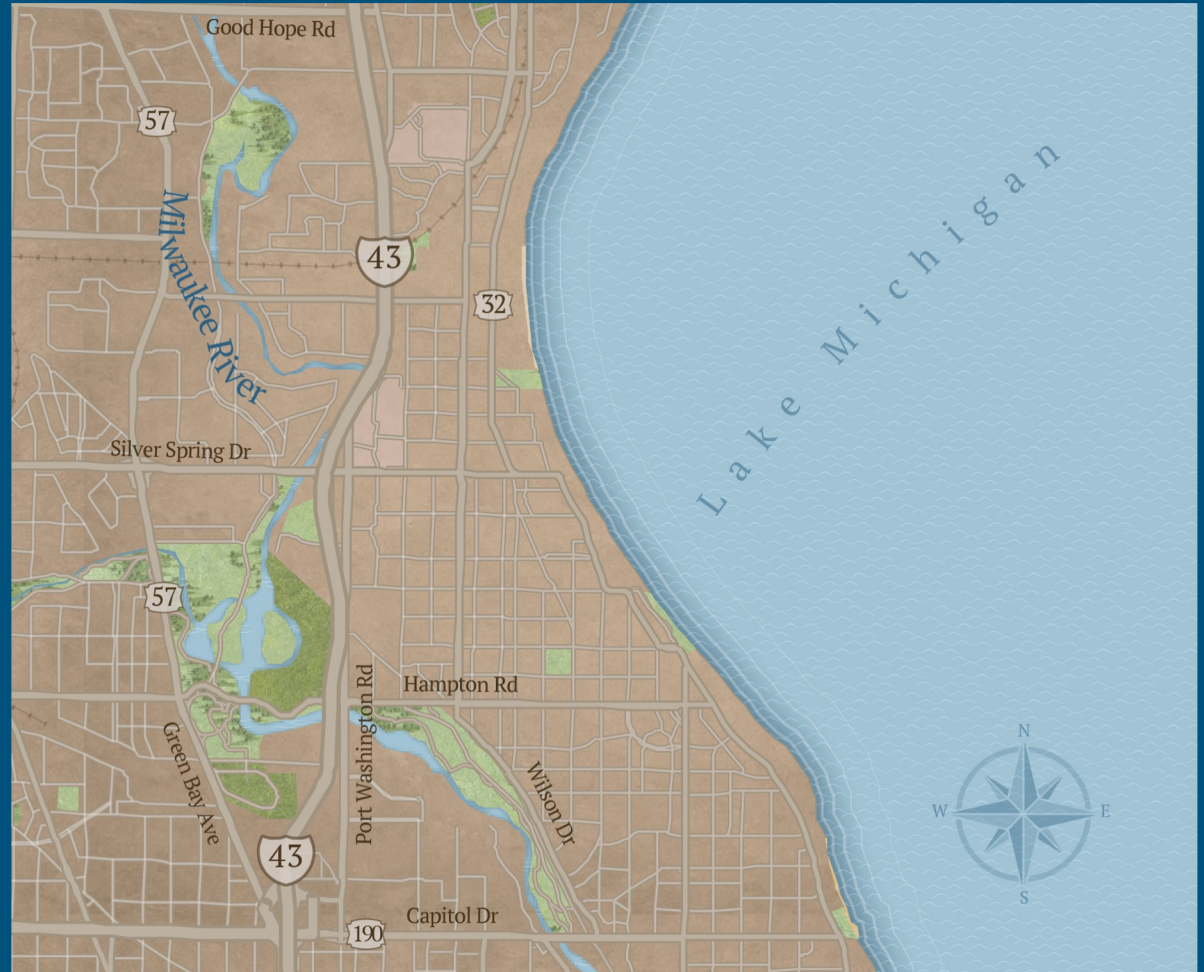
Upper Mil Map & Info

Access the upper Milwaukee at any park upstream of Capitol Avenue, with main focus on Estabrook & Kletzsch

Few fly fishing opportunities exist between Estabrook & Kletzsch

Thiensville and Grafton dams offer additional access points

No Trout or Salmon past Grafton



Lower Mil Map & Info

Access the lower Milwaukee
at any park between North
Avenue and Capitol Drive

Fewer fly fishing
opportunities exist below
North Avenue

Hubbard Park is great place
for Steelhead









Fall Browns Browns Browns



















L.L.Bean

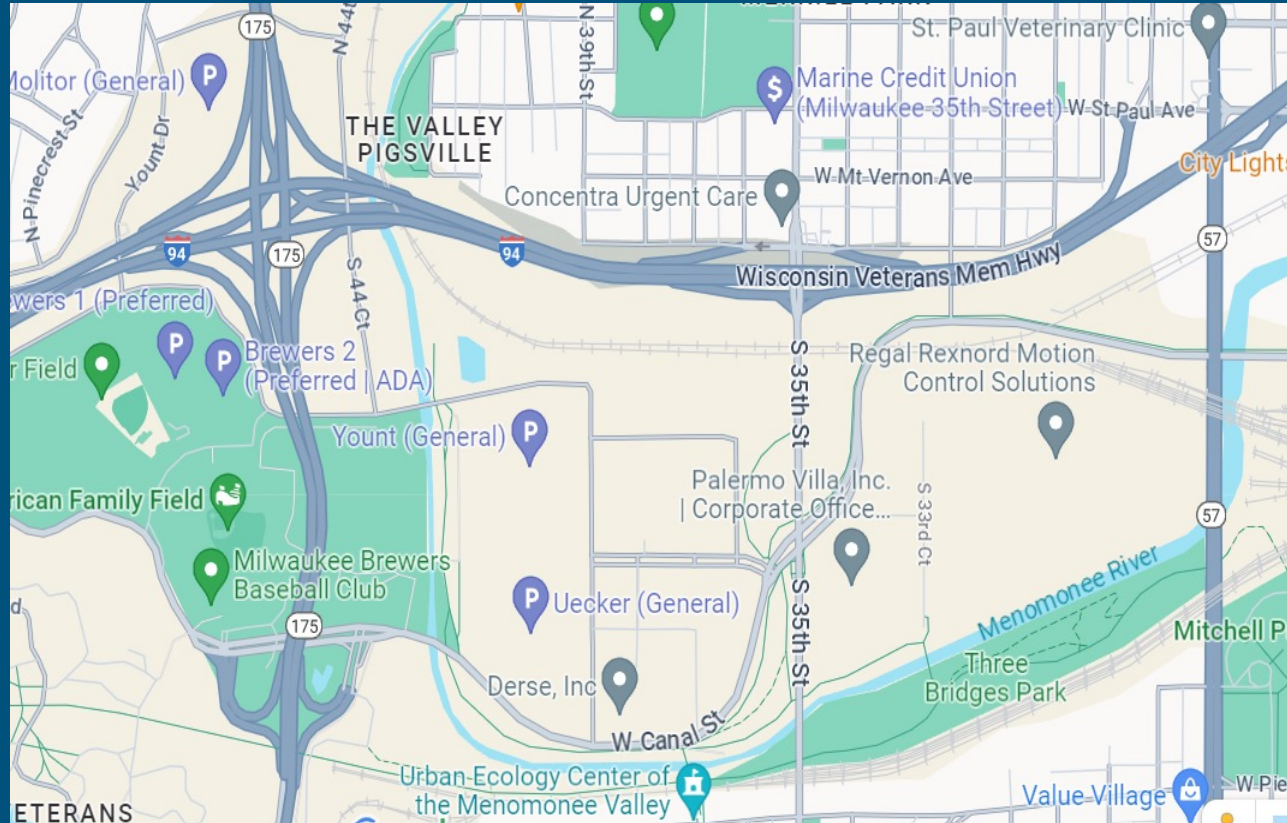


Menomonee River



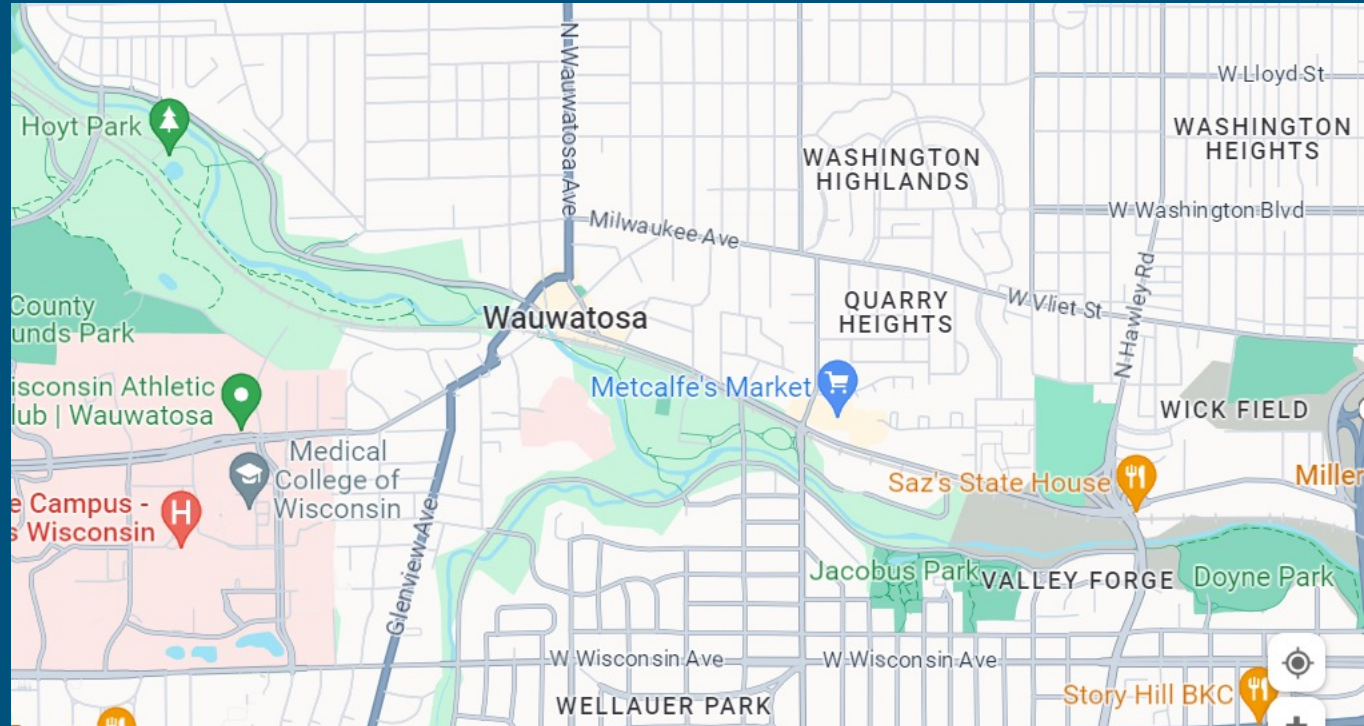
Lower Menomonee River

- Great Access at Am Fam Field and THREE Bridges Park
- Fish are usually in this section Early and Late in the season



Middle Menomonee River

- Great Access in downtown Wauwatosa
- Hoyt Park has miles of access







When To Fish

March & April, Oct - Ice = Steel

September - November = Salmon

October - Ice = Browns

Most important to timing is FLOWS

<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/wi/nwis/current?type=flow>

Best Advice

Oak Creek goes up and down
in 1 day

Pike goes up and down in 2-3
days after a rain

Root is still rising after 2-3
days and will be up for a while

Milwaukee River can kill you!

Given by Rich Brown (Fatman)



Ways to Fish

Eggs & Nymphs

Swinging Flies



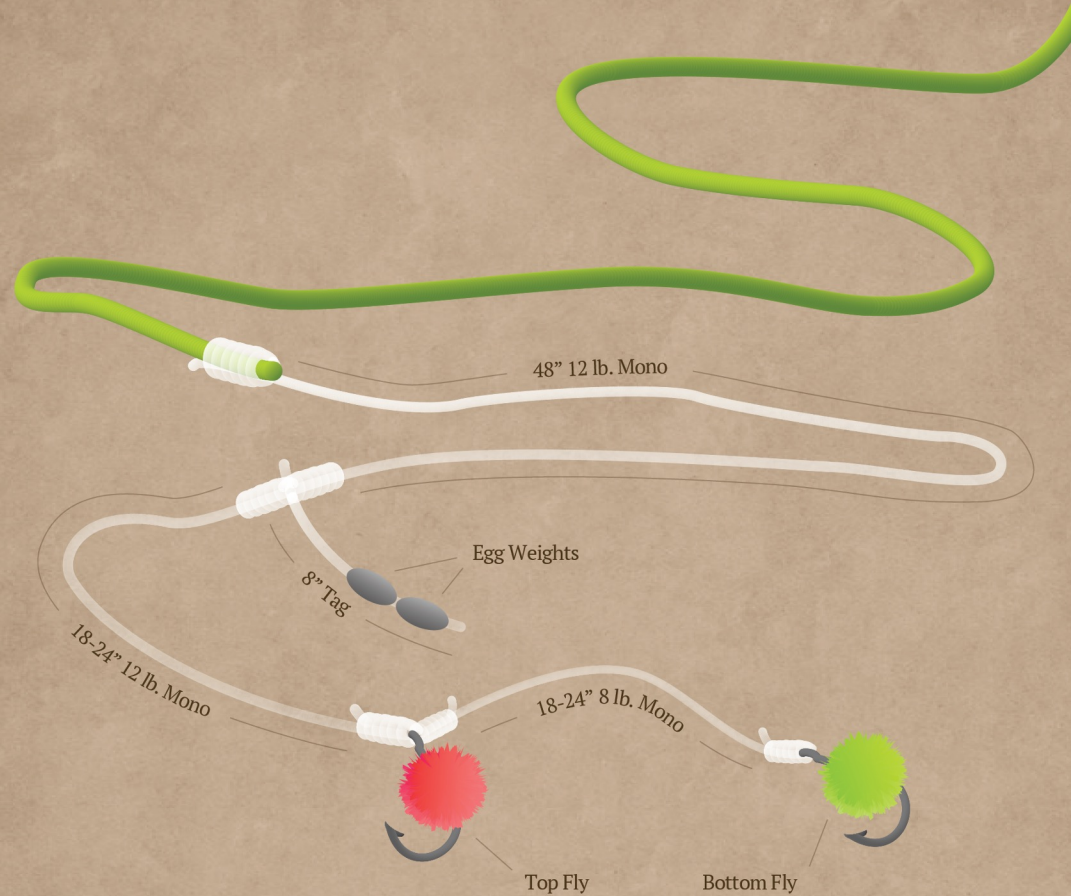
Eggs & Nymphs

WF floating lines

48" of 12 lb. Mono as main leader -
longer in heavier current or deeper
water

18-24" of 12 lb. Mono as tippet for 1st
fly - leave 8" tag at knot for weight
attachment

18-24" of 8 lb. Mono to your point fly,
attached to the eye of the first fly







One of the most important things we know about Steelhead is that they don't change their preferred lies. So even if the water is high, count on them still being there. Don't just add weight and use bigger flies. Instead, lengthen your leader for less drag and punch the rig through the surface tension. Fish the rig from closer in and more direct kind of like contact nymphing.

One more thing that most people don't understand about egg fishing is to fish the deep water behind the beds where the egg eaters really are.



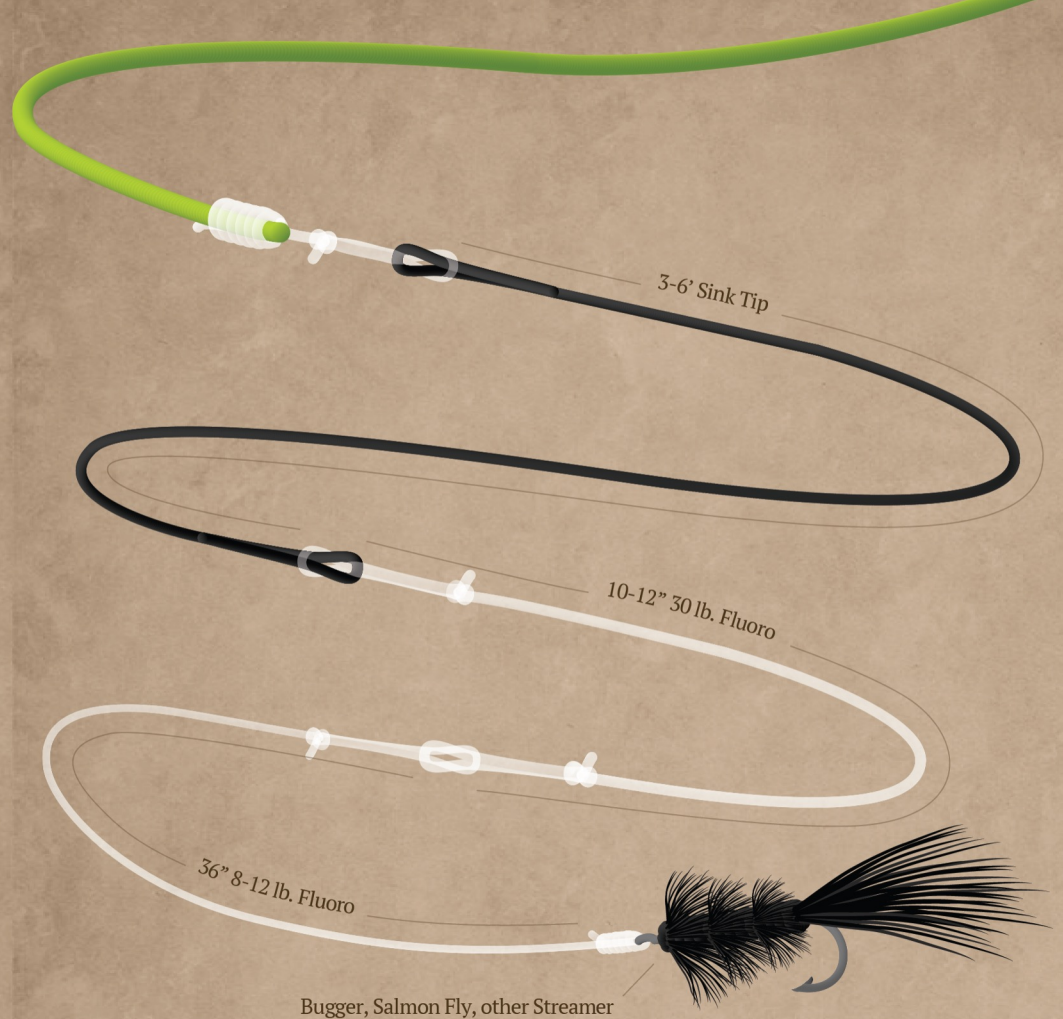
Swinging Flies

WF floating lines

3-6' sink tip

10-12" section of 30 lb. Fluoro

36" of 8 lb. Fluoro to your streamer











Swinging Tips

Tips for Swinging a fly

A short sink-tip or polyleader and about 3 feet of 12 lb leader are all you need

The only true Two Handed Swing water is on the Milwaukee. One handed swinging can be done on the Root and Menomonee

My two favorite swing flies are the Bad Hair Day in olive and the old Spruce Fly!



Questions???

Happy Tails to you...
until we fish again!

