



News Release

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Winter Trout Fishing begins November 1 at Cosmo-Bethel Park

Under a cooperative agreement, the Missouri Department of Conservation, Columbia Parks & Recreation, and the Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited will stock trout at Cosmo-Bethel Lake to create an urban winter fishery again this year.

One of the goals of the Missouri Department of Conservation's Urban Fishing Program is to increase fishing opportunities and species diversity in urban lakes. Since 1989, the Missouri Department of Conservation has stocked rainbow trout in St. Louis and Kansas City area lakes to provide close-to-home fishing opportunities. Urban winter trout fishing has been so successful in these cities that the program was expanded two years ago to include the City of Columbia.

More than 2,400 trout will be stocked at Cosmo-Bethel Lake. Most of the trout stocked will be 10 to 12 inches long, however, some larger fish will also be released. The stocking date will not be announced ahead of time.

All trout must be released, unharmed from November 1-January 31. Only artificial baits (no natural or scented baits) can be used from November 1-January 31. After January 31, anglers can harvest trout under statewide regulations.

Columbia's Winter Trout Program is sponsored by Columbia Parks & Recreation, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Call the Missouri Department of Conservation at 573-884-6861 for more information.