

Fishing Missouri Trout Parks - Hints

1. This is small stream fishing so use equipment that is appropriate.
2. Tippet should be small - 5X if the water is off color and 6X (or smaller) if the water is clear. Consider fluorocarbon, if not dry fly fishing.
3. As a general rule, the lower and clearer the water the smaller the tippet and fly.
4. The shot and indicator technique is usually best if not dry fly fishing.
5. Drag free presentations are usually the best. However, a slight occasional twitch of the fly can produce results.
6. Let the fly complete the entire drift. At the end of the drift let the fly linger briefly down stream. Sometimes a fish will strike as the fly rises to the top.
7. Observe the stream. Fish the fly at the level of the fish in the water column.
8. Fish the top of a riffle or pool in the morning and the lower part in the afternoon.
9. Look for underwater holding lies such as rocks or logs that will break the current. Fish structures by casting above and letting the fly drift from above and around the structure.
10. Although sometimes impossible, avoid fishing in a crowd. Fish are spooky enough without having multiple flies thrown at them.
11. Become proficient with tying knots. Check the knot after catching a fish.
12. Keep the point of the hook sharp.
13. Make sure your tippet is not nicked. If you feel a rough spot, replace it.
14. Fish slow and cover the entire hole of water before moving on to the next hole. The first cast should be close and lengthen with each additional cast allowing all water to be covered.
15. Often fish will follow the fly, but refuse to strike. Try fishing with a smaller tippet or a smaller fly.
16. If fish are rising, but refuse the dry fly try using an emerger.
17. If you observe another fisherman catching fish, observe what he is doing that is making him successful. How deep is he fishing? What technique is he using? Is he using a nymph or an emerger or dry fly? Is he presenting the fly up stream or downstream?
18. Keep sun screen, bug spray, oil, foreign smells off your hands and fly.
19. Don't blindly wade into a hole. The best fish in the hole maybe lying along the bank. Fish close before trying to fish the other side of the stream.
20. Draw upon past knowledge and experience and observe not only the water, but also the bank and air.

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