

**Massapequa Creek EBTJV (Survey#:122001)  
Walter Burak, Region 1 Fisheries**

**3/6/2023**

Massapequa Creek, located within Massapequa Preserve in the Town of Oyster Bay, underwent a major restoration project aimed at restoring a bike path/nature trail and improving stream conditions. Completed in 2010, the Nassau County project included a reduction in stormwater input, the re-routing of the creek around two warm water ponds, and a flow augmentation device that pumps water from downstream to the upstream reaches.

Once the project was completed, a CROTS (Catch Rate Orientated Trout Survey) analysis was performed in 2012 and it was determined that the creek has the potential to maintain a brook trout population. Prior to new efforts to re-establish a native trout population, the creek had been receiving NYSDEC hatchery raised brown and rainbow trout annually. The creek now receives Long Island raised brook trout from Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery and Aquarium purchased by Long Island Trout Unlimited (LITU). Beginning in 2013 stocking rates varied from 500 to 1000 brook trout each fall (depending on size and availability). The most recent stocking occurred in the fall of 2021 and consisted of 700 3"-6" brook trout.

To determine whether natural reproduction of brook trout is occurring, backpack electrofishing surveys were conducted in 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022 in search of young of the year brook trout.

On April 20, 2022 Region 1 fisheries staff conducted a backpack electrofishing survey (Survey No. 122001) on Massapequa Creek from the spillway at the end of Pine St. upstream to the south end of Mansfield Park (approximately 1,950 ft.). Six brook trout ranging in length from 136 mm – 297 mm, with an average length of 155 mm were captured. Total brook trout caught from electrofishing surveys and average lengths can be seen in Table 1.

*Table 1 Total Brook Trout and Average Lengths*

<b>Survey Number</b>	<b># of Brook Trout</b>	<b>Average Length (mm)</b>
113019	14	281
115006	4	221
116005	7	231
118001	1	210
119001	12	222
121001	44	155

Although no juvenile Brook Trout were caught or observed to this date, results show that the stocked brook trout do survive the summer months and seem to be growing well. Region One Fisheries will continue to monitor the brook trout population in upcoming years as well as assist LITU in their restoration efforts.