



Connecticut Department of

**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Opening Day is this Saturday, April 11th

341,000 trout stocked for Opening Day, lingering winter conditions and ice may affect Opening Day fishing access in some areas.

DEEP to stock Trout Parks on Opening Day, families encouraged to join in & help

Opening Day of the Trout Fishing Season is Saturday, April 11th and Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has the State's rivers, streams, lakes and ponds stocked and ready. Approximately 341,000 trout have already been released this spring into 102 lakes and ponds and 178 rivers and streams throughout Connecticut and are awaiting Opening Day anglers. DEEP's spring trout stocking effort began in early March and will continue through mid-May. When the spring stockings are completed, DEEP expects to have stocked over 610,000 trout.

"Opening Day is an exciting time for Connecticut's many trout anglers, and they can look forward to a great fishing season," said Susan Whalen, Deputy Commissioner of DEEP. "The fish are in excellent condition, our trout waters are stocked and anglers can enjoy a wide range of fishing options. Additionally, Opening Day is a special time for many families, the traditional first time to get outdoors together after winter."

Among the best places for families to fish on Opening Day are the designated Trout Parks. "Trout Parks are easily accessible, have picnic areas and other amenities nearby, and are stocked frequently so that there are plenty of trout for children, families, and novice anglers to catch," said Bill Hyatt, Chief of DEEP's Bureau of Natural Resources. "And as an added feature, families will be able to help stock trout at some of the Trout Parks on Opening Day. We have found that these stocking events are a real highlight for many families."

All eleven Trout Parks have already been stocked by the DEEP, including the areas that are scheduled to be stocked again on Opening Day: Chatfield Hollow State Park (Killingworth), Great Hollow Pond/Wolfe Park (Monroe), Mohegan Park Pond (Norwich), Southford Falls State Park (Oxford), Stratton Brook State Park (Simsbury), Valley Falls Park Pond (Vernon) and Wharton Brook State Park (Wallingford). Each of the Trout Parks stocked on Opening Day will receive 400-450 trout

(see table on last page for times). All the remaining Trout Parks will be re-stocked shortly after Opening Day and all Trout Parks will be stocked several times through May.

DEEP has again stocked a number of Community Fishing Waters in time for Opening Day. Begun in 2006, the Community Fishing Waters program is intended to enhance fishing opportunities in Connecticut's major population centers. Lakes and ponds selected for this program are located in urban areas and are typically stocked with trout in early spring and channel catfish by early summer to provide a year-round opportunity for anglers of all ages. Since first established, this program has been expanded from five to thirteen areas stocked with trout. The five original locations are Keney Park Pond (Hartford), Lake Wintergreen (Hamden), Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport), Mohegan Park Pond (also managed as a Trout Park, Norwich) and Upper Fulton Park Pond (Waterbury) and the eight newer locations are Birge Pond (Bristol), Beaver Park Pond (New Haven), Center Springs Park (Manchester), Mirror Lake (Hubbard Park Pond, Meriden), Picketts Pond (Derby), Colony Park Pond (Ansonia), Rowan's Pond (Butternut Park Pond, Middletown) and Stanley Quarter Park Pond (New Britain). This year, due to ice covered conditions at the Black Rock Pond Trout Park (typically stocked on opening Day), Mirror Lake will be stocked instead.

This spring a number of anglers have expressed concern over the extended winter and its effect on trout stocking. "We are very pleased to be able to tell the state's anglers that in spite of the prolonged winter conditions and weather-related setbacks, they will find virtually all of the usual water bodies stocked prior to Opening Day," said Pete Aarrestad, Director of DEEP's Inland Fisheries Division.

DEEP did not stock Colebrook River Lake (Colebrook), the Mad River Flood Control Impoundment (Winchester) and Hall Meadow Brook (Torrington/Goshen) in western Connecticut due to winter conditions. Additionally Bashan Lake will not be stocked this year due to a significant drawdown associated with dam improvements.

The lingering late winter conditions will affect fishing, fishing access and camping in some areas. A number of lakes and ponds, especially in northwest and northeast Connecticut are still ice covered, including such popular Opening Day trout fishing locations as Colebrook River Lake, Crystal Lake, East Twin Lake, Highland Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Lake McDonough, Stillwater Pond, Tyler Lake, West Hill Pond and Lake Wonoskopomuc, and the Black Rock Pond Trout Park.

Additionally, the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) boat launches at Lake McDonough and West Branch Reservoir will be closed this weekend due to ice. Shoreline fishing will be allowed where found to be feasible by MDC.

DEEP suggests that anglers should keep some alternative fishing locations in mind as they can expect access to be limited in a number of state parks, forests and water access locations because of snow or continued ice coverage.

Anglers wishing to camp at a state park or forest campground should be aware that two campgrounds along popular fishing streams, Macedonia Brook (along Macedonia Brook) and Austin Hawes (along the West Branch Farmington River in American Legion State Forest), that typically open for Opening Day weekend will remain closed until next week.

All other DEEP campgrounds that typically open for Opening Day weekend (in Black Rock, Devil's Hopyard, Hopeville Pond, and Mashamoquet Brook State Parks and the Green Falls and Mount Misery campgrounds in Pachaug State Forest) will be open for Opening Day.

DEEP has also removed a number of small streams from its annual trout stocking schedule due to very limited or no use by anglers or limited access. In eastern Connecticut, Abbey Brook (Somers), Cattlelot Brook (Marlborough), Dark Hollow Brook Pond (Glastonbury), Fawn Hill Brook (Marlborough), upper Fiver Mile River (above Quaddick Lake))(Thompson), Hope Valley Brook (Hebron), Iron Stream (Guilford), Knowlton Brook (Ashford), Long Branch Brook (Thompson), Merrick Brook (above Route 14)(Scotland), lower Mill Brook (Plainfield), Muddy Brook (Woodstock), New City Brook (Stafford), Stony Brook (Montville), Thrasher Brook (Somers) and Wells Brook (Union) will no longer be stocked. In western Connecticut, Ball Pond Brook will no longer be stocked.

Anglers should consult the 2015 CT Angler's Guide for detailed information on specific locations and angling regulations. Printed versions of the 2015 Angler's Guide are now available at more than 350 locations statewide, including town halls, bait & tackle shops and other vendors selling outdoor equipment, DEEP facilities, and commercial marinas and campgrounds. Anglers are advised that there are several errors in the print version where the date for Opening Day was not updated to reflect the recent change in Opening Day from the third Saturday in April to the second Saturday in April. The electronic versions of the Guide can be found on the DEEP website at (www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide) and have been fully corrected.

Fishing and fisheries related information can be found on the DEEP web site at www.ct.gov/deep/fishing. Additionally, DEEP Fisheries and Wildlife information can be found directly on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife. This page features a variety of information on fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching in Connecticut. Anglers can find updates on DEEP's trout stockings on both the Fisheries and Wildlife Facebook page and on the DEEP website. Maps of all of the state's trout streams and rivers showing the many stocking and access points can be found at www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps.

2015 fishing licenses can be purchased directly online , or at one of the many participating town halls, tackle retailers and DEEP offices. **Remember that 2015 Fishing, hunting and trapping licenses for 16 and 17 year olds are ½ price (most hunting permits, stamps and tags are also ½ price for 16 and 17 year olds).** For a complete list of vendors, visit the DEEP website (www.ct.gov/deep/fishing) or call DEEP Licensing and Revenue (860-424-3105).

The following is a list of the designated Trout Parks in Connecticut, approximate stocking times are given for the areas scheduled to be stocked on Opening Day, 2015. Note that one of the Community Fishing Waters, Mirror Lake, is being stocked on Opening Day due to conditions at the Black Rock Pond Trout Park (typically stocked on Opening Day):

Trout Parks	Opening Day stocking time
Black Rock State Park (Watertown)	-
Chatfield Hollow State Park* (Killingworth)	10:00 am
Day Pond State Park (Colchester)	-
Mohegan Park Pond (Norwich)*	8:15 am
Kent Falls State Park (Kent)	-
Natchaug River (Eastford)	-
Southford Falls State Park* (Oxford)	10:00 am
Stratton Brook State Park* (Simsbury)	10:00 am
Valley Falls Pond (Vernon)*	8:15 am
Wharton Brook State Park* (Wallingford)	10:00 am
Wolfe Park – Great Hollow Pond* (Monroe)	8:15 am
Community Fishing Water	
Mirror Lake* (Meriden)	8:15 am

*Stocked on Opening Day

Note- all times approximate

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