



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

CONNECTICUT READY FOR OPENING OF FISHING SEASON

Over 389,000 trout stocked for Opening Day

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

IS THE GEAR READY? DO YOU HAVE YOUR LICENSE? ARE THE PLANS TO MEET UP WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY MADE? OPENING DAY OF THE TROUT FISHING SEASON IS SATURDAY, APRIL 17TH and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has the state's rivers, streams, lakes and ponds stocked and ready.

Most of the fish stocked by the DEP are brook trout, brown trout and rainbow trout that average around 10-12 inches long. However, about 2,700 of these fish are surplus broodstock that weigh up to 10 lbs each like this brown trout.



Since early March, nearly 390,000 trout have been released into 103 lakes and ponds and 200 rivers and streams throughout Connecticut and are now awaiting the state's many anglers. DEP's spring trout stocking effort continues through the end of May and when completed, DEP expects to have stocked over 680,000 catchable size trout.

"Opening Day is an exciting time for Connecticut's many trout anglers, and they can look forward to exceptional fishing this season," said Bill Hyatt, Chief of the Bureau of Natural Resources. "The fish are in excellent condition, nearly all of 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 the 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 Hyatt. “And as an added feature, families will be able to help stock trout at eight of the Trout Parks on Opening Day. We have found that these stockings are a real highlight for many families on Opening Day.”

All eleven of the Trout Parks have already been stocked by the DEP. The areas that are scheduled to be stocked again on Opening Day are Black Rock Pond (Watertown), Chatfield Hollow State Park (Killingworth), Southford Falls State Park (Oxford), Stratton Brook State Park (Simsbury), Wharton Brook State Park (Wallingford), Mohegan Park Pond (Norwich), Valley Falls Park Pond (Vernon) and Great Hollow Pond/Wolfe Park (Monroe). All the remaining Trout Parks will be re-stocked shortly after Opening Day.

DEP will again have Keney Park Pond (Hartford), Lake Wintergreen (Hamden), Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport), Mohegan Park Pond (also managed as a Trout Park) and Upper Fulton Park Pond (Waterbury) stocked with trout for Opening Day. These waters are being managed as “Urban Fishing Areas”. This pilot program was initiated in 2006 as part of the “*No Child Left Inside*” initiative, and is intended to enhance fishing opportunities in Connecticut’s major population centers.

Trout Parks do have special regulations, a two trout per day creel limit. As many other specially managed areas including Trout Management Areas, Trophy Trout Streams, Sea-Run Trout Streams and Wild Trout Management Areas also have special regulations, anglers are advised to consult the new 2010 Connecticut Angler’s Guide for the current fishing regulations that apply to the waters they plan to fish. The 2010 Angler’s Guide is available at Town Clerks Offices, many DEP offices and at tackle stores selling fishing licenses. Anglers can purchase their fishing licenses online or at participating town halls, DEP field offices and fishing tackle vendors. Both the Angler’s Guide and the online licensing system can be accessed on the DEP web site at: www.ct.gov/dep/fishing

A list of CT’s designated Trout Parks can be found on the next page.

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:

Trout Parks	<i>Opening Day stocking time</i>
Black Rock State Park* (Watertown)	10:00 am
Chatfield Hollow State Park* (Killingworth)	10:00 am
Day Pond (Colchester)\	
Mohegan Park Pond (Norwich)*	8:15 am
Kent Falls State Park (Kent)	
Natchaug River (Eastford)	
Southford Falls State Park* (Oxford)	8:30 am
Stratton Brook State Park* (Simsbury)	8:30 am
Valley Falls Pond (Vernon)*	11:00 am
Wharton Brook State Park* (Wallingford)	8:30 am
Wolfe Park – Great Hollow Lake* (Monroe)	10:00 am
*Stocked on Opening Day	Note- all times approximate

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