

## Ranger Marcy's Acorn Adventure at Quinebaug Valley State Trout Hatchery



**Address:** 141 Trout Hatchery Rd, Central Village, CT 06332

**Tours:** Self-guided

**Phone:** 860-564-7542

The Hatchery sits on approximately 2,000 acres of state owned land and was constructed in 1971 at a cost of 2.5 million dollars. The water is supplied by 7 wells. 4-5 used now, 2-3 in reserve for dry times producing 6,000,000 gallons of water daily (with capacity of 9,000,000 gallons of water daily). Water is aerated – oxygen is added.

**Eggs!** Sperm is taken from the males and mixed with the eggs from the females. They rinse the soft fertilized eggs with water, and as the eggs absorb the water, they become harder and less fragile. When the eggs are hard, they are placed in trays with cold, running water... just as if they were outside in a river!



**Feeding facts:** When trout eggs hatch they keep their yolk sac for 2-3 weeks to feed themselves until they learn to eat their trout food. At the hatchery they are hand fed 2 times a day "Strike Fish Food" (like Dog Chow) – made in 9 different pellet sizes for different sized fish. The fish here eat 1 ton (2,000 lbs. of

food each day)!

**Fish do poop!** Their waste settles and is drained from tanks, with solids going to septic tank & leach fields.

**Round pools vs. Raceways** – round pools are more efficient as fish swim in circular motion; they also build up their strength & stamina. Temps and oxygen remain consistent, and they are easier to clean.

There can be from 15,000 – 40,000 fish per tank, depending on their size!

**Big blue pump!** Fills the trucks, then in go the trout, then they are stocked – or put in the waters. Some winters they have to climb over snow banks and drill holes through the ice to get the trout in the water!

Lots of hard working, strong volunteers help here! (Lots of college students).

**Types:** Tiger trout, Brook trout, Milk trout, Brown trout are raised here. This state of the art numerical control facility is managed from the control center located in the main office where the operator can observe water quality, monitor well pumps, program feeding systems, program/access alarms and review historical trends of the facility. There is an onsite backup generator that can supply power to the entire complex as necessary. The secure spawning area and the hatch house are managed for disease prevention and monitored for quality assurance. The photoperiod (length of daylight) of the fish is manipulated for controlled growth patterns as determined by the needs of Fisheries Management efforts.

Quinebaug Valley Hatchery is responsible for the production of the majority of the state's trout and has four main areas:

1. **Brood Stock Raceways** consist of 20 raceways 50' long by 6' wide. Brood stock are the fish that provide the eggs needed for use in the hatch house.
2. **The Hatch House** is used to incubate and hatch the fish eggs. When the fish reach 3" in size, they are moved to the intermediate tanks.
3. **Intermediate Tanks** consist of 30 circular tanks 20 feet in diameter. Each tank can hold up to 30,000 3" fish. The fish remain in these tanks until they are 6-8" in length when they are transferred to the outside grow out tanks.
4. **Grow Out Tanks** consist of 40 outside circular tanks 50 feet in diameter. They are covered by netting to control predatory birds. Each tank can hold up to 13,000 6-8" fish. The trout will remain in these tanks until they are ready for stocking – usually 9-12" long. This hatchery stocks the entire state of CT – from the end of February through the end of May, and then again in the fall.

There is an onsite children's fishing pond which is frequently stocked with fish. This may be where your child catches their first trout!

#### **TROUT FACTS:**

Trout live in fresh water.  
They like 50-60 degree water the best.  
You can catch them with a regular fishing rod & reel or try fly-fishing, too!

This is a great site for CT fishing news, including weekly fishing reports and fishing tips:

[http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2696&q=322708&depNav\\_GID=1630](http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2696&q=322708&depNav_GID=1630)

This is a great site for MA trout fishing info:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/hunting-fishing-wildlife-watching/fishing/central-districty-waters.html>

They have a lot of bones, but they are still quite yummy for us to eat!

Bears & Eagles like to eat them.

Trout eat other fish, plus flies, dragonflies, mealworms, insects and other icky stuff like that! Young trout are called troutlet, troutling or fry.

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#### ***CT Trout Parks? What's a Trout Park?***

**Is it some kind of strange fish carnival? No, actually a Trout Park is a pond or stream that will be stocked weekly with trout from the state's fish hatcheries.**

11 water bodies in Connecticut have been designated as Trout Parks. Trout Parks are located in easily accessible areas to enhance trout fishing opportunities for young anglers and novice anglers as well as for

those with mobility challenges. The frequent stockings, generally between Opening Day and Memorial Day, will greatly increase an angler's

chances of catching a fish, making it a more attractive "fishing hole", particularly to children and families.



**Although the Trout Parks will have more fish in them, their daily creel limit (the number of trout an angler can keep) has been reduced from five to two fish per day in order to spread the catch among a greater number of anglers.**

***GET HOOKED ON FISHING IN THE LAST GREEN VALLEY!***

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