

C.R.S.A.
STOCKING GUIDE

Richard G. Bell
17 Canterbury Road
Hamden, CT 06514-2018

bellawrg@cs.com

203-288-2386

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Stocking Guide

General Rules:

- All stocking shall take place at a CRSA approved site on the main stream or an approved tributary of the Salmon or Farmington Rivers. We will no longer use Devil's Hopyard or the Eight Mile River.
- The following sites require scheduling with CRSA in advance; all are subject to daily limits of schools and buses, as set forth in this Guide: Salmon River Rec Area, Salmon River Comstock Bridge, Blackledge River-Moose Lodge and the Farmington River at People's Forest State Park. Once dates are confirmed, they will be posted on the CRSA website stocking pages: See home page www.ctriversalmon.org.
- Three Salmon Brook sites in the Granby area, namely Granbrook Park, Salmon Brook Park, and Holcomb Farm, also require scheduling in advance, but in these cases, it is the Town as property owner who should be contacted. All are subject to daily limits. See below for details. Please advise CRSA of your site and scheduled date.
- Schools using previously CRSA approved Special Sites not included above may continue to do so without advance scheduling through CRSA. See below.
- Veteran schools are expected to use the sites used last year, unless other arrangements are made through CRSA; new schools will be contacted to work out assignments.
- Leave all sites as you would like to find them. Bring plastic bags for trash and take out what you bring in.
- New teachers should visit stocking sites in advance in order to best plan your field trip.
- **Safety:**

(a) CRSA does not provide any safety oversight of students at stocking events. That is the responsibility of schools. Indeed, CRSA Liaisons attend only some of the stockings, and

then only for limited periods of time. It is the schools' responsibility to assure that students are properly instructed and supervised with respect to the risks inherent in waterside activities.

(b) All streams and rivers, large and small, are subject to periodic floods because of storms, prolonged or intense rains, etc. High water may be dangerous for both students and salmon fry, and may require rescheduling of the event. Teachers are responsible for ascertaining weather conditions and making cancellations where necessary.

(c) Under ordinary conditions, there may be some places in most streams where wading may be perfectly safe. CRSA does not make the judgment whether or not to permit wading. Unless prohibited by the owner, that is the schools' responsibility. However, if it is permitted, do NOT, under any circumstances, let students go barefoot because there is a serious risk of cuts from glass, discarded fish hooks, etc.

(d) Swimming is not permitted at the stocking sites.

(e) The stocking sites may provide habitat for mosquitoes and also for ticks, which may carry Lyme disease or other serious diseases. Check with your school nurse or medical advisor on preventive or protective measures.

Except for the Town Parks in the Granby area, the CRSA contact person for required scheduling reservations, and all other stocking questions, is Dick Bell, email: bellawrg@cs.com; tel. 203-288-2386.

Stocking Sites

1. **Salmon River Rec Area:** This site is a park-like tract of State land along the beautiful Salmon River in East Hampton, just over the Colchester line. To get there from west of the Connecticut River, take Route 66 from Middletown southeast to the Village of Cobalt, where Route 16 veers off to the right. Take Route 16. This road crosses the Salmon River at the site of the historic Comstock Covered Bridge, one of Connecticut's few remaining covered bridges and an

interesting historic site. If you continue southeast on Route 16 across the highway bridge over the Salmon River for about 1/8th of a mile, you will come to Gulf Road on your right, a little dirt road which takes you directly into the Salmon River Rec Area. There is a large parking space here and there are picnic tables and rest room facilities between the parking area and the river. Paths lead from the picnic table area to two obvious stocking accesses on the river. There is a third stocking access just slightly upstream from these two where the Pavilion is located. That is on the Firemen's Field property, adjacent to the Rec Area and recently acquired by the D.E.E.P.

- (a) All schools using buses must make advance scheduling arrangements for the Salmon River Rec Area with CRSA.
- (b) The maximum number of buses permissible at the Salmon River Rec Area at any given time will be 6 and the maximum number of schools will be 3. Parking in the Rec Area parking lot is limited to 2 buses. If at any time there will be 3 or more buses present from 1 or more schools, all buses will park in the adjacent Firemen's Field. Buses parking in the Fireman's field will load and unload at Firemen's Field. Cars will park in the Rec Area parking lot.
- (c) All schools, but especially the multi-bus schools, should schedule early. At the Salmon River Rec Area, and at all other sites, our experience indicates that schools seem to prefer early May dates. Accordingly, there are more options available to you if you crank up your DI for a late April stocking, or hold back until after May 10.
- (d) A word to the wise. We mentioned the Comstock Covered Bridge, which is a short distance upstream and across both the Salmon River and Route 16 from the Rec Area. This is not in the Rec Area proper but there is excellent access and habitat there above the Route 16 Highway Bridge, easily reached from the Comstock Covered Bridge parking area. Schedule through CRSA.

- 2. Salmon Brook Sites—Granby Area – General:** The Salmon Brook, with the East Branch originating in Massachusetts, and the West Branch in West Granby, Connecticut, meanders through the Granby area. The branches join just downstream of Granbrook Park in East Granby, and the combined stream joins the Farmington River at Tariffville. We have used three sites on the Salmon Brook: Granbrook Park in town of East Granby; Salmon Brook Park in Granby; and Holcomb Farm, also in Granby. All share some common features. These are not State properties, as is the case with the Salmon River Rec Area. Salmon Brook Park is a Town of Granby park. We first knew Holcomb Farm as a private, non-profit nature center, but the property is now also owned and managed by the Town of Granby. Granbrook Park is owned by the Town of East Granby. We are guests at all of these sites by invitation only. It is necessary at all of these sites to request the Town’s permission well ahead of time. In all cases, make sure you identify yourself as a Connecticut River Salmon Association affiliated school. We must at all times be mindful of the owners’ rules and requirements. It is appropriate at all sites, but particularly important at these three, to bring some large black plastic trash bags with you to carry everything out. Again, our practice should be to leave the place as we would like to find it. All of these sites are close to the Center of Granby. You can get there from the south by going up I-91 to the Bradley Airport exit, which is Exit 40, to Route 20, and take Route 20 going west past the airport all the way to the center of Granby. This is marked by the junction of Routes 20, 10, 189, 219, and US 202, which all converge here.
- 3. Granbrook Park:** This small town park is on Route 189, in the Town of East Granby, about 2 miles south of Granby Center. It is on the right, heading south, on an access road marked by a small sign saying “Granbrook Park Road,” which can easily be missed. If you come to Floydville Road on your right, or Holcomb Street on your left, heading south, you’ve gone too far. The driveway in from Route 189 goes downhill and heads in the direction of the stream. The stocking area is right there at the Park, up and down the east bank of the stream in both

directions. The limit is one school at a time, 2 buses. To use the site, you must first schedule with the East Granby Parks and Rec Director, currently Nancy Lawton. Her telephone number is 860-653-7660 and her e-mail is: nancyl@egtownhall.com. Check with her on applicable Town use rules. Nancy will also know of any town conflicts, other scheduling, etc.

4. **Salmon Brook Park:** This is a large town park, owned and operated by the Town of Granby. It is a little over a mile south of Granby Center, on Routes 10 and 202, marked by a sign on your right. After you enter the park, the roadway forks. Stick to the left fork and go to the parking lot at the very end. Just before the parking lot, on the left, you will pass a covered picnic area known as the “Pavilion.” This is an ideal staging area for stocking purposes. The best stocking site is directly behind the Pavilion where Salmon Brook is only a stone’s throw away. There is a second, less desirable site just upstream of the Pavilion on the same side. You get there by walking upstream along the edge of the mowed park area, and taking the first cut trail to your left to the Brook. You must first apply for a permission from the Granby Parks & Rec Department. The contact person there currently is Ms. Daphne Shinder, telephone, 860-844-5356, e-mail: recreation@granby-ct.gov. Identify yourself as a Connecticut River Salmon Association affiliated school. You should contact her by phone or e-mail at least 2 weeks in advance, preferably longer. You should receive the Town’s rules for use of the park, which you should read and make sure your students understand them and comply with them. There may be a fee for use of the Pavilion. The limits for this site are a maximum of 1 school and a maximum of 2 buses, at any one time.

5. **Holcomb Farm:** This used to be the site of a private non-profit organization which operated an environmental learning center on old farm land on the east branch of Salmon Brook in what is called the Village of West Granby in the Town of Granby. The farm and stocking site area is now owned and operated by the Town of Granby, which has taken over the scheduling of events like ours. You get there by driving west from Granby Center on Route 20. At about two miles, a

“Holcomb Farm” sign will appear on your right, directing you to turn left. Take that left turn on to Day St. South, and it will lead you to the Farm. You must first apply for permission as described in paragraph 4 above. Call or e-mail Daphne Shinder at 860-844-5356; e-mail: recreation@granby-ct.gov. Holcomb Farm no longer offers programs for our schools. You are pretty much on your own while there. The Town wants our schools to bring trash bags, and take everything out that was brought in. Also, make sure your students and other visitors do not take any rocks home: they have lost too many rocks along their stream banks and do not want them taken. Check with Ms. Shinder on any other rules. There is a tent and some picnic tables here behind the barn which we may use. Our limit here, which is contingent upon other scheduled events, is 1 school, 2 buses per day. Indoor toilets can be made available on request to Ms. Shinder. There is a fee for this and CRSA will pay it, but you must also let me know of your request. There may be only limited parking space at the Farm itself for buses. However, they can be loaded and unloaded at the Farm, and directed to an offsite parking place. So, discuss your parking situation and buses with Ms. Shinder in advance so there are no surprises here. You also should make sure that you have a way to communicate with your bus drivers if they do park offsite.

6. **Blackledge River:** This site is on the north bank of the Blackledge River, along the Old Hartford Road, at and upstream of the junction of that river and Fawn Brook. The Blackledge is one of the two main tributaries of the Salmon River, the other being the Jeremy River. The site is in the Town of Marlborough, just over the Colchester line. A Moose Fraternal Order Lodge is directly across the road, and has, in the past, graciously permitted us to use its parking facility and picnic area. Permission must be sought in advance. Limit: 1 school; 2 buses. Schedule through CRSA.
7. **People’s State Forest (Farmington River):** The Farmington is a big river, quite wild in some places. It provides excellent habitat for wild salmon. CRSA schools stock from the People’s

Forest State Park in Barkhamsted. It is off Park Road, which runs along the east side of the river, between Pleasant Valley and Riverton. There is a Pavilion at the south end which is very convenient. You should be aware that the Farmington is subject to excessive high water in the spring, and you should not go without assurance of reasonable water levels. New teachers should not go without experienced assistance. Also, because of the extent of the river available, you should check with an experienced teacher or CRSA Liaison as to best stocking sites. The Farmington is probably best for middle and high school classes. One school at a time—3 buses—is the limit here. Reserve through CRSA. Please advise Dick Bell at CRSA of your use of such a site and your stocking date.

8. **Other Sites:** There are several other sites used regularly by specific CRSA schools. Most have some unique or distinct relationship to the school: right next door, for instance. They are, generally, very small and not suited to bus traffic. Make sure any such site you contemplate is approved as a suitable habitat.
9. **Registration of Stocking Site on Website – www.ctriversalmon.org:** After confirming your stocking site and date at the Salmon River, Blackledge River or Farmington River with CRSA, it will be registered on the special Stocking section set up on our website. This is to make the information available to other interested schools.

Good luck to all! Call with any questions.

Connecticut River Salmon Association

By Dick Bell
17 Canterbury Road
Hamden, CT 06514
Tel: 203-288-2386
e-mail: bellawrg@cs.com