

Welcome Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery!

Here is some information about the hatchery before you get started on your self-guided tour.

Outside the viewing ponds

Inside the Hatchery

Now you've begun your tour inside the hatchery building. This is where the three kinds of trout are raised.

We get our eggs from an outside source and hatch them right here in the Tall Hatching Jars. We raise them from September to May and then they are moved to the outside ponds. The trout remain in the ponds until they are 1 and 2 years old. Volunteers are then used to help stock the fish in all of



Inside the hatchery

Onondaga County's streams.

After stocking is completed for the season, there are still trout left in the ponds for viewing. Then, the process starts all over again in the fall when a new batch of eggs arrives at the hatchery.

Check out the trout lifecycle on the inside panel to get an idea of how old the fish of Carpenter's Brook are!

Carpenter's Brook Fish Rearing Station was under construction as a Works Project Administration Grant for one and a half years. Once this was completed, the hatchery was turned over to Onondaga County on May 12, 1938. The hatchery is unique in that it is one of only four county run hatcheries in New York State.

The facility was originally built for rearing some 300,000 bass and trout and there were 13 Bass ponds.

Now, there are 18 circular and 12 rectangular concrete ponds for trout only. Today we hold about 125,000 trout in these outside tanks.

Rainbow Trout



Brook Trout



Brown Trout



The tanks are supplied with water from wells and a number of springs which according to geologists, have their origin in North Central Canada and flow through the Trenton Stratification.

The staff and volunteers at Carpenter's Brook take great pride in stocking over 100 miles of streams and 10,000 acres of impoundments with 100% of the D.E.C. recommendations for these waters. These efforts are necessary to serve the region with the state's largest per capita fish license sales and contribute significantly to local fishing-oriented retail sales of \$4 million/year.

Outside the Viewing Ponds

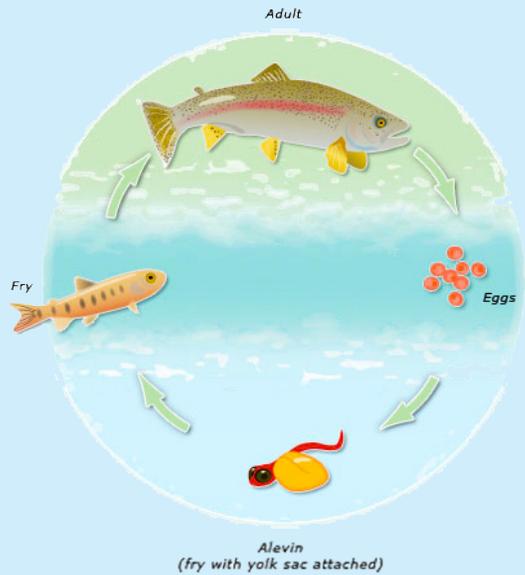
The viewing ponds outside of the hatchery are the next stop on your tour.

This is where the trout go after they are ready to leave the inside lanes of the hatchery.

The trout in the ponds are between one and two years old and the next stop for these trout are in the streams of Onondaga County.

Stop by the welcome center and get some trout food to feed the fish. Be sure not to put your hands in the ponds because trout are known to bite! When you feed the trout and they surface to get the food, can you spot the difference between the Brook, Brown and Rainbow Trout?

Trout Lifecycle



Terms to Know

- Fry:** what fish are called immediately after hatching
- Fingerling:** very young fish (salmon or trout)
- Smolt:** young salmon or trout, when it becomes the silvery color and migrates for the first time
- Anadromous:** fish that spend most of their lives at sea but return to fresh water to spawn
- Spawning:** fish eggs deposited and fertilized
- Smelt:** family of fish that have a long silver body and can live in cold northern waters
- Shad:** natural baitfish prey of bass
- Cartilaginous-** fish that have a skeleton made of cartilage, rather than bone

Contact Information

Box 269 1672 Route 321
Elbridge, NY 13060

Telephone: (315) 689-9367

Fax: (315) 689-6536

Email: cbfh@ongov.net

Trout Stocking Hotline: (315) 689-0003

Hours

9am-6pm, April 16 - September 30

9am-3pm, October 1 - April 15

Admission is free.

Brookside Shelter is available to rent from mid-May - mid-October, 10am-5pm. Call 451-6249 to make a reservation. Ask about our Sunday "Fish 'n Party" option.

Annual Programs

Go Fish! Public Fishing

Open public fishing for families, individuals and small groups.

Saturdays Mid April - May

\$5 per person, 9:30am-11:30am

Time Out to Fish

Mondays - Fridays, late May - late July, (except holidays)

10:00am - 12:00pm or 1:00 - 3:00pm

\$3 per person

This long running program offers school groups serving children with special needs as well as other small groups, senior citizens, and individuals with special needs the opportunity to fish for rainbow trout.

Grandparent/Grandchild Fishing Days

Mondays - Fridays, Late July - Mid August

9:30 - 11:30 am or 1:30 - 3:30 pm

\$3 per child; adults free

This special activity offers a great opportunity for grandparents to enjoy quality time with their grandchildren, catch lunker trout and create memories for a lifetime.

*All programs require pre-registration, Call 451-6249.

County Executive: Joanne M. Mahoney

www.OnondagaCountyParks.com



Self-Guided Tour Information

Parks and Recreation. The Benefits are Real!

