

# The Nationwide Rivers Inventory 19 Segments for the State of Connecticut

Reference Source: <http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/nri/> Note: Outstanding Resource Values (ORVs) Definitions at List Bottom

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River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Bantam River	Litchfield	Above Litchfield to Torrington Country Club.	5	1982		H	See Bantam River Comments	
<b><u>Bantam River Comments:</u></b> Historic-(Segment is adjacent to Litchfield, a National Landmark. One of the best surviving examples of a late 18th century town, and significant former colonial trading center.)								
Connecticut River	New London	Essex to Tylerville.	9	1982		S, G, F, W, O	See Connecticut River Comments	
Lord Creek	New London	Confluence with Connecticut River to headwaters.	1	1982		S, G, F, W, O	See Connecticut River Comments	
Seldon Creek	New London	Confluence with Connecticut River to Seldon Cove.	2	1982		S, G, F, W, O	See Connecticut River New London Comments	

**Connecticut River New London Comments:** **Wildlife**-(Corridor includes coves and meadows which provide significant wildlife habitat in close proximity to urban areas.) **Hydrologic**-(Segment is one of two remaining relatively undeveloped, free-flowing high order river segments in the southernmost portion of the New England Upland section.) **Fish**-(River is an historic Atlantic Salmon fishery.) **Scenic**-(Segment offers a variety of views related to the juxtaposition of land, land use, vegetation, and stream channel variation.) **Geologic**-(Segment includes the significant Chapman Falls, cascading some 60 feet into a deep gorge called Devil's Hopyard.)

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Connecticut River	Hartford	Above Bissell Bridge to I-91 Bridge.	5	1982		R, F, O	See Connecticut River Comments	

**Connecticut River Hartford Comments:** **Hydrologic**-(One of two remaining relatively undeveloped, free flowing high order river segments.) **Recreation**-(A unique proximity to high concentrations of urban populations in Hartsford.) **Fish**-(River is an historic Atlantic Salmon fishery.)

Eight Mile River	New London, Middlesex	Confluence with Connecticut River to headwaters.	11	1982		S, G, F, W, O		
Eight Mile River, East Branch	New London, Middlesex	Confluence with Eight Mile River to Mitchell Pond.	4	1982		S, G, F, W, O		
Farmington River	Hartford	Second Brook to north of Old Farms Road.	6	1982		R, G, F	See Framington River Hartford Comments	

**Farmington River Hartford Comments:** **Recreation**-(Unique diversity of flow gradients including flatwater-quickwater segments and easy rapids. River is in close proximity to urban populations in Hartford.) **Fish**-(River is currently being restored as an Atlantic Salmon fishery.) **Geologic**-(River related land-forms and topography unique to the New England Upland section.)

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Farmington River, West Branch	Hartford, Litchfield	Above New Hartford to the West Branch Reservoir.	7	1982		R, G, F	See Framington River West Branch Comments	
<p><b><u>Farmington River, West Branch Comments:</u></b> <b>Recreation-</b>(A unique diversity of flow gradients including flatwater-quickwater segments and easy rapids. River is in close proximity to urban populations in Hartford.) <b>Fish-</b>(River is currently being restored as an Atlantic Salmon fishery.) <b>Geologic-</b>(River related land-form and topography unique to the New England Upland section.)</p>								
Natchaug River	Windham	North Windham to Bigelow Brook.	9	1982		G, F, O	See Natchaug River comments.	
Bigelow Brook	Windham	Confluence with Natchaug River to Myers Pond.	9	1982		G, F, O	See Natchaug River comments.	
Mount Hope River	Windham	Above Atwoodville to headwaters.	7	1982		G, F, O	See Natchaug River comments.	
<p><b><u>Natchaug River Comments:</u></b> <b>Fish-</b>(A regionally significant trout fishery.) <b>Hydrologic-</b>(Longest whitewater stream with Class II gradient in natural setting in Connecticut.) <b>Geologic-</b>(Segment includes an area with riverbed potholes unique to the section.)</p>								
Pawcatuck River	New London, Washington	Nooseneck Hill Road to Bradford.	5	1982		H	See Pawcatuck River Comments	RI
<p><b><u>Pawcatuck River Comments:</u></b> <b>Historic-</b>(Segment includes portions of the site where a decisive Colonial battle was fought with the Narragansett Indians, in addition to significant prehistoric archeological sites.)</p>								

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Quinebaugh River	Windham	Above Aspinook Pond to Wauregan.	9	1982		S, F, H	See Quinebaugh River Comments	
<p><b><u>Quinebaugh River Comments:</u></b> <b>Scenic</b>-(Steep escarpment at confluence of river.) <b>Historic</b>-(Segment is adjacent to Wauregan, listed on National Register of Historic Sites and noted as an excellent example of a textile mill and village complex.) <b>Fish</b>-(River is a historic Atlantic Salmon fishery.)</p>								
Salmon River	Middlesex, Tolland	Confluence with Connecticut River to Route 2 Bridge.	9	1982		R, G, F	See Salmon River comments.	
Blackledge River	Hartford, Tolland	Above Route 2 Bridge to Sperry Road.	10	1982		R, G, F	See Salmon River comments.	
Jeremy River	New London	Above Route 2 to headwaters.	4	1982		R, G, F	See Salmon River comments.	
<p><b><u>Salmon River Comments:</u></b> <b>Recreation</b>-(Segment includes the site of a national annual canoe slalom race, and considered to be among the three best whitewater streams in Connecticut. Accessible to numerous urban centers in the Northeast.) <b>Fish</b>-(Site of proposed Atlantic Salmon restoration project, which would make this salmon habitat close to major population centers.) <b>Geology</b>-(Segment flows through an active geological fault lying under a series of cave formations which produce tremors emanating as noise. This unusual phenomenon has existed since pre-history and was recorded by Indians.)</p>								
Scantic River	Hampden, Tolland	Hampden to headwaters	5	1982		W	See Scantic River Comments	MA
<p><b><u>Scantic River Comments:</u></b> <b>Wildlife</b>-(Segment includes Laughing Brook Wildlife Area, a Potential National Natural Landmark.)</p>								

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Wood River	Washington Kent, New London, Windham	Ten Rod Road to headwaters.	5	1982		R	See Wood River Comments	R

**Wood River Comments: Recreation-**(Segment is in close proximity to the urban population centers of southeastern New England and includes recreation features including a trout fishery, a trail network, and Class II canoe waters.)

## Outstanding Resource Values (ORV) Definitions:

**Scenery (S):** The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors -- such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed -- may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment.

**Recreation (R):** Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are unique or rare within the region. Visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing and boating.

- o Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract, or have the potential to attract, visitors from outside the region of comparison.
- o The river may provide, or have the potential to provide, settings for national or regional usage or competitive events.
- o

**Geology (G):** The river, or the area within the river corridor, contains one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon that is unique or rare within the region of comparison. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a "textbook" example, and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, or other geologic structures).

**Fish (F):** Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these river-related conditions.

- *Populations:* The river is nationally or regionally an important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance is the presence of wild stocks and/or federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."
- *Habitat:* The river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison. Of particular significance is habitat for wild stocks and/or federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."

**Wildlife (W):** Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic wildlife populations or habitat or a combination of these conditions.

- *Populations:* The river, or area within the river corridor, contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species. Of particular significance are species considered to be unique, and/or populations of federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."
- *Habitat:* The river, or area within the river corridor, provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."

**Prehistory (P):** The river, or area within the river corridor, contains a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must have unique or rare characteristics or exceptional human interest value(s). Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare and represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups; and/or may have been used by cultural groups for rare sacred purposes. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which is administered by the NPS.

**History (H):** The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) or feature(s) associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or one-of-a-kind in the region. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A historic site(s) and/or features(s) is 50 years old or older in most cases.

**Cultural (C):** The river or area within the river corridor contains archaeological sites or areas significant to traditional cultures. Examples might be American Indian burial grounds, petroglyphs, the oldest known human use site in a region, or streams that support traditional agriculture, subsistence fishing, or religious ceremonies.

**Other Values (O):** While no specific national evaluation guidelines have been developed for the "other similar values" category, assessments of additional river-related values consistent with the foregoing guidance may be developed -- including, but not limited to, hydrology, paleontology and botany resources.