

= Farm River State Park =

Farm River State Park is a 61 @-@ acre state park on Long Island Sound in the town of East Haven . The undeveloped park is located alongside part of Farm River . The land was acquired by the State of Connecticut and designated a Connecticut state park in 1998 before developers began the construction of luxury condominiums along the river .

The land contains marshland , tidal wetlands and a rocky shore that hosts a number of bird species including ducks , gulls , snowy egrets , and blue herons . The unique geology of the uplands and bedrock outcrops provide the landscape diversity and allow the tidal marsh flooding to separate the park into an upper and lower portions . Park activities include picnicking , hiking , bicycling , fishing , crabbing , bird watching , and car @-@ top boating . Public access to the park is limited and boating is restricted to those with passes obtained from Quinnipiac University , who manages the park for the state .

= = History = =

Farm River State Park covers 61 acres located on the western shoreline of the Farm River . According to local historian Joseph Leary , the Farm River competes with the Housatonic River for the most names , with at least 15 different known names , complicating identification of the river with different native and colonial names . One of these names , Deborah River , named for Deborah Chidsey relates to an incident in which she left Governor Gurdon Saltonstall stranded upon a rock in the river whilst waiting for the tide to recede . The land surrounding the river has been dominated by summer homes as since the early 1970s , when land was inexpensive and available . The land was obtained by the State of Connecticut and designated a state park in 1998 before the construction of luxury condominiums . The State of Connecticut in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Trust for Public Lands to create the park with the purchase of a 57 @-@ acre parcel and another 15 acre parcel on Mansfield Grove Road for a total of \$ 1 @.@ 75 million .

Though it only has 61 acres , the park has remarkable diversity according to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection . The land contains marshland , tidal wetlands and a rocky shore that hosts a number of bird species including ducks , gulls , snowy egrets , and blue herons . The unique geology of the uplands and bedrock outcrops allow the tidal marsh flooding to separate the park into an upper and lower portions . In 2006 , Quinnipiac University received \$ 86 @,@ 000 to install a wireless network communication system in the park , making it the first state park in Connecticut to have Wi @-@ fi capability . Also in 2006 , a vacant and soon to be demolished house was destroyed by arson . The house was going to be demolished to create parking for the park . In 2012 , more than a mile of trail from the D.C. Moore School to Farm River State Park and Short Beach Road was cleared by Boy Scout Troop 401 .

= = Activities = =

The Farm River State Park is undeveloped , but it does contain two access point trails that leads to scenic vistas . Quinnipiac University , which manages the park , offers passes to the public to launch canoes and kayaks at the site through its Community Boating Program , but the docks are only to be used by those with the pass . In 2004 , Leary referred to a possible development plan to create more parking , install a boardwalk and provide a proper entrance to the Farm River State Park . Park activities include picnicking , hiking , bicycling , fishing , crabbing , bird watching , and car @-@ top boating .

The park is described as not being fully operational and only a portion of the park is accessible to the general public . There is access off Connecticut Route 142 (Short Beach Road) via an electrically @-@ controlled gate off Mansfield Grove Road . Parking is limited to six cars before the park entrance gate , and a .3 miles (0 @.@ 48 km) walk on a gravel access road leads to the park 's waterfront . For a fee of \$ 20 , visitors can obtain a season pass to access the park 's marina . In 2006 , access to the park was the subject of debate with Attorney General Richard Blumenthal

stating , " ... it is wrong for the university to close a parking lot on a state park to the general public and there may be and should be some way to accommodate the renters of slips without effectively barring the general public , which , after all , owns it . "