

## = Hopeville Pond State Park =

Hopeville Pond State Park is a Connecticut state park located in the town of Griswold . Before European colonization , the Mohegan people constructed weirs and fished from the Pachaug River . In 1711 , Stephen Gates was granted 14 acres of land that now resides within the park 's limits and constructed a gristmill and sawmill at the natural falls . In 1818 , Elizah Abel purchased the mill privilege and built a woolen mill at the site . The mills were later acquired by John Slater who constructed a satinet mill and named it " Hope Mill " . The village of Hopeville would derive its name from the mill , and it thrived until a series of fires destroyed the mills , the church and some houses . Sometime before 1917 , the Ashland Cotton Company erected a dam on the site and created a 145 @-@ acre reservoir . The United States Government purchased the land in the 1930s for recreational use and used the Civilian Conservation Corps to adapt the land to the purpose . In 1938 , the State of Connecticut designated Hopeville Pond as a state park .

Hopeville Pond State Park 's recreational activities include biking , hiking , camping , fishing , boating and swimming . A variety of fish are found in the park , including northern pike , largemouth bass , and yellow perch . The park has a total of 80 camp sites with each site featuring a fire ring with grate and a picnic table . The park manager 's house is a National Register of Historic Places listed property .

## = = History = =

Hopeville Pond was by the Mohegan Indians for fishing prior to the European colonization . The Mohegans built weirs to direct the water flow and fish to the center of the stream for easy capture in fishing baskets . In 1711 , Stephen Gates was granted 14 acres of land which lies within the state park limits . Gates constructed a gristmill and sawmill at the natural falls along the Pachaug River . In 1818 , Elizah Abel purchased the mill privilege and built a woolen mill at the site . Later , John Slater purchased the three mills and constructed a satinet mill and named it " Hope Mill " . The village of Hopeville derived its name from the mill and would also carry it through to the Hopeville Pond and the Hopeville Pond State Park name . The natural falls of the mill sites are no longer visible as they are now underwater .

By 1840 , Hopeville was a " thriving village " according to Daniel L. Phillips , author of Griswold - a history . On November 4 , 1850 , a meeting was held to discuss the construction of a house of worship . A church was erected for \$ 1 @,@ 700 and dedicated on December 12 , 1852 . The village of Hopeville reached its peak in 1860 and was well known for its production of woolens . In 1881 , the mill , then owned by Edwin Lanthrop and Company , was destroyed in a fire and not rebuilt . The Ashland Cotton Company would later acquire the property . In 1900 , the church and four houses also burned . In 1908 , the original gristmill from 1711 was also destroyed by fire . Sometime before 1917 , the Ashland Cotton Company erected a dam on the site and created the 145 acre reservoir ; the dam was used to generate electrical power for its mills in Jewett City . The United States Government purchased the land in the 1930s for recreational use and used the Civilian Conservation Corps to adapt the land to the purpose , including the construction of fire control ponds , forest roads and adapting the Avery House for park use . In 1938 , the State of Connecticut designated Hopeville Pond as a state park .

## = = Avery House = =

The Avery House , also known as Hopeville Pond Park House , is a 20 feet ( 6 @.@ 1 m ) by 40 feet ( 12 m ) , the two story central @-@ chimney Colonial dating to circa 1770 . The central chimney is on a stone base and has a built @-@ in root cellar . In 1935 , the Civilian Conservation Corps ( CCC ) rehabilitated the property for park use . The alterations in the house changed the traditional five @-@ room first floor plan by eliminating the keeping rooms and the removal of the kitchen fireplace . It retains much of its original door frames and wrought @-@ iron latch hardware . It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986 . After the rehabilitation of the

property , the Avery House became the Hopeville Park manager 's residence .

= = Activities = =

Hopeville Pond State Park is listed for a multitude of recreational activities , including biking , hiking , camping , fishing , boating and swimming . Hopeville Pond was included in an 11 @-@ mile bike trail in Connecticut : Rides for the Casual Cyclist . The Lake Lubbers website states that Hopeville Pond is a popular location for fishing , including ice fishing . The reported fish include " northern pike , largemouth bass , smallmouth bass , catfish , chain pickerel , yellow perch , and bluegill " .

According to the DEEP website , the camping season begins on the third week of April on Friday and ends on September 30 . The park has a total of 80 camp sites with each site featuring a fire ring with grate and a picnic table . The layout is in two loops designated with sites A @-@ E and a second loop designated as F. Each loop has toilet and drinking water facilities . The camp site was rated highly for its beauty , spaciousness , cleanliness and security in 2013 by Best Tent Camping .