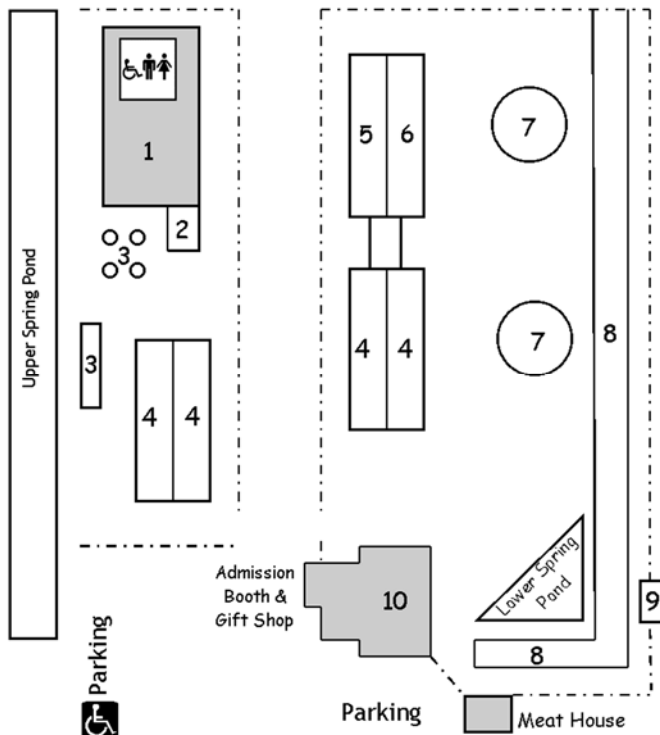




Welcome to the historic Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery & Aquarium

After 99 years as a New York State trout hatchery, the "Hatchery & Aquarium" opened as a private non-profit educational facility in 1982. As a demonstration hatchery, brook and rainbow trout are raised to stock private ponds. As an educational facility, it provides programs to "Hatchery & Aquarium" members, visitors, hundreds of school children and other groups from the tri-state region. As a public aquarium, many New York native species of freshwater fish, aquatic reptiles, and amphibians are exhibited. The Hatchery will be glad to provide further information and answer any questions. Please enjoy your visit.



1. Walter L. Ross II Aquarium Building

This building houses over 30 different species of freshwater fish native to New York State. The fish range from the primitive bowfin to the largemouth bass. You can find our hatchling turtles in the Turtle Alcove. This building was named after Walter L. Ross II, who was an avid trout fisherman and enthusiastic board member.

2. Robert Koenig Memorial Pond

Dedicated in September 2001 and generously donated by his family, the Robert Koenig Memorial Pond houses brown trout and water lilies.

3. Hatch House & Rearing Pools

The Hatch House protects trout eggs from hungry predators and sunlight. The brook trout eggs are taken in early November and hatch in late December. The baby fish remain here for four months before they are moved into the rearing pools. The rearing pools are intermediate pools between the troughs in the Hatch House and the large outdoor Trout Ponds. They provide the needed space for young trout to grow.

4. Trout Ponds

Refer to the signs at the middle of each pond for the species and their month of hatching. The artesian well water that feeds these ponds is 52 degrees year round. You'll notice the nets over the ponds - these help keep hungry predators such as herons and osprey from eating the young trout.

5. Warm Water Pond

The water in this pond comes from St. John's Pond, located directly south of the Hatchery. This pond may freeze in winter, but can reach temperatures as warm as 85 degrees in the summer. Unlike trout, the fish in this pond can tolerate higher water temperatures. There is a sign to the right of the pond that will help you identify the various species.



6. Turtle Pond

This pond has the same water source as the Warm Water Pond. On sunny days many of the turtles will bask on the cedar logs. Some turtles climb up the ramp into the center land area, which is where female turtles lay their eggs during June and July. The eggs are incubated indoors and the newly hatched turtles are displayed in the Ross Aquarium Building.



7. Round Ponds

The round ponds hold brook or rainbow trout ranging from 1.5 to 2.5 years old. The round ponds are self cleaning; the water flows in at the side and drains through the middle.

8. Tidal Raceway

Water flows from our outdoor ponds and artesian wells into the Tidal Raceway, which then empties into Long Island Sound. Fishing takes place here year round every Friday through Tuesday. The trout in this raceway have been stocked for fishing.

9. Tidal Creek Observation Platform

From this deck you can observe the tidal creek and the St. John's Pond spillway and dam where there was once an ice house. There are still many birds and animals which visit, make homes, and sometimes reproduce in this tidal estuary. Anadromous fish, such as alewives and white perch, move into this creek seasonally.

10. Fairchild Exhibit Building

In this building, there are aquariums displaying some of New York's smaller, native freshwater fish, reptiles and amphibians. The "New York Amphibia" exhibit is the largest living collection of native amphibians in the Northeast. This building is named after Julia F. Fairchild, a leader in keeping the Hatchery open after the State wanted to close it.

Hatchery staff may take photographs or recordings for use in publicity. Please inform us if you do not want photos taken of you or your child.