



## THE SALMON BROOK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 556, Granby, CT 06035

[www.salmonbrookwatershed.org](http://www.salmonbrookwatershed.org)

TESTIMONY OF  
NEIL W. KRANER, PAST PRESIDENT AND DUDLEY W. ALLEMAN, PRESIDENT  
SALMON BROOK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

ON S.435

BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

SEPTEMBER 22, 2005

The Salmon Brook Watershed Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, use and enhancement of the Salmon Brook. We are pleased to partner with the Farmington River Watershed Association and other sister organizations in support of the Senate Bill to initiate the feasibility study for the Wild and Scenic designation of the Salmon Brook.

The East Branch, West Branch and main stem of the Salmon Brook are together a major tributary to the Farmington River. Salmon Brook lies within a 160 square mile watershed, primarily in a rural setting.

The brook has many cultural, natural and recreational features. It has played an important role in the settlement and formation of the Town of Granby. People moved north to settle a place called "Sammon Brooke". The community was later known as "Salmon Brook Ecclesiastical Society" and incorporated as Granby in 1786. The Farmington Canal followed along a portion of the brook and was Granby's link to the sea and the western frontier. Mills along the brook provided power for the local manufacturing enterprises.

The East and West Branch have spectacular gorges and waterfalls. The town's first health officer, Dr. Alfred Weed, wrote in 1898, "...Our sparkling brooks...born of springs far up on the mountainsides, where water in its virgin purity exists." Over 100 years later the brook still enjoys high water quality and is one of the few brooks in Connecticut with a self-supporting native brook trout population. It is also a significant habitat for Atlantic Salmon and is used for salmon stocking programs. The brook is home to a wide diversity of animal and plant life, including at least one species of rare wildflower. The Slimy Sculpin is a small fish that only lives in clear, cold streams and it is frequently caught (and released) within the nets of the volunteers participating in the annual macroinvertebrate survey. Salmon Brook consistently ranks among the top streams in the state of Connecticut for water quality through the surveys.

The brook at Holcomb Farm Learning Center is a significant natural resource for educational opportunities for local and inner city youth. This past summer the Salmon Brook Watershed Association published a stream guide to educate streamside owners and others who enjoy the brook the importance of its protection.

Numerous activities including swimming, kayaking and picnicking are all available and enjoyed throughout the Salmon Brook. Fishing is popular in all portions of the brook. It is renowned among anglers as a prime destination for fly fishing, especially for native trout as well as stocked fish. Bryan's Landing is a handicapped accessible area built by volunteers near the center of town. Eagles, ospreys and waterfowl are often seen near the brook. Visitors to the McLean Game Refuge, established by the late Senator George P. McLean and now consisting of over 4000 acres, may hike the many trails along the West Branch.