



## **THE GREAT PARK PURSUIT** **PARK #2 – SELF-GUIDED EVENT**



Below you will find letterboxing instructions for Salmon River State Forest. At least one team member 18 years of age or older and one team member under 18 must find a plastic container hidden in the woods, collect a stamp impression on a sheet of paper (that must be brought in), and turn in as proof of visitation by June 14 along with a printout of the team check-in pass with attending members noted. Good luck and have fun!

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### **Salmon River State Forest** **Route 16** **Colchester, CT**

#### Driving Directions

*(detailed directions can also be obtained by using the Interactive Park Map at [www.nochildleftinside.org/parks/map](http://www.nochildleftinside.org/parks/map))*

**From the Norwich area:** take Route 2 west, Exit 18. Follow Route 16 west for 6.2 miles; turn left into the recreation area.

**From the New London area:** follow Route 11 north onto Route 2 west, Exit 18. Follow Route 16 west for 6.2 miles. Turn left into the recreation area.

**From the Middletown area:** follow Route 66 east onto Route 16. Follow Route 16 east for 5.5 miles. Turn right into recreation area.

**From the Hartford area:** take Route 2 east, Exit 16. Follow Route 149 south for 3.2 miles. Turn right onto Route 16 west. Follow Route 16 west for 1.9 miles. Turn left into the recreation area.

Note: The trail begins at the **Comstock Covered Bridge in Salmon River State Forest**. This is located 0.2 miles after the recreation area if coming from New London and areas in the east or 0.2 miles before the recreation area if coming from Middletown and areas in the west.

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#### Hiking Directions

The hike is approximately 20-minutes one-way on the **CT Blue Dot Trail**.

From the parking lot on Bridge Street in Colchester, walk towards the Comstock Bridge. Go across the bridge and take a sharp left heading down toward the river. (Do not go to the yellow gate, head toward the river.) Take the path to the right heading upstream on the Blue Dot Trail.

Continue up the trail and do not take the first right, but continue walking with the river on your left. Soon the trail will gradually veer to the right and take a somewhat steep climb. Once at the top, the trail will intersect with a wider trail. Bear left – this is a continuation of the Blue Dot Trail. Soon you will enter a clearing with a beautiful view of Salmon River.

At the end of the clearing there is a trail that veers to the left. Do not veer left. Stop at this intersection and take 23 steps, staying straight on the trail. Look to the right and you will see a small ravine. Across the ravine you will see a two sister tree. Here you will find The Great Park Pursuit letterbox. Please take a copy of the squirrel stamp on a piece of paper and write a comment in the book.

You can either end your trip here and simply return back the same way you came (another 20 minutes back), or you can continue on the Blue Dot Trail. The trip to the next letterbox will take approximately another 40 minutes.

To find the next letterbox, keep following the trail and it will eventually start to climb again. Just before you get to the top you will see a log on your left that appears to be two logs, but on closer investigation you will find that it is only one log. You might want to count the rings to get an estimate of how old the tree was when it fell over the trail. Continue on the trail. The Blue Dot Trail veers to the right. (If you reach the power lines you have gone too far.) The trail becomes narrower and eventually it will take you through Mountain Laurel, Connecticut's State Flower. The trail will start to ascend. When you are almost at the top you will see a large flat rock 6-8 ft. and not directly on the trail, but to the left. Continue on your way, up the hill and around a bend. The trail will descend and you will come to a stone wall on the right side of the trail. Here you will find the second letterbox. Make a stamp on your paper and please write a comment in the book.

*Do not be confused: there are other letterboxes on the trail but you will need to find either one or two of The Great Park Pursuit letterboxes.*