

A Regional Water Authority (RWA) Recreation Area, Big Gulph is the place for challenging hiking in untamed woodlands. Located in North Branford, Big Gulph features more than six miles of trails, ranging from flat to very steep with a variety of wildlife habitats, including streams, meadows and forests.

Stream fishing is available in sections of the Farm River and the pond along the Farm River Trail. Please stay within the boundaries of the recreation area and do not enter restricted areas, as these are in sensitive watershed areas. The Big Gulph and Farm River Trails provide good access to the Farm River stream fishing area.

This trail area along the Farm River is also a good place to look for ducks, herons, and painted turtles. The flat part of the Francis A. Merola Trail, which is over two miles one way, is ideal for walking, jogging or enjoying the fall foliage.

If you would like to add a challenge to your hike, you can make a loop by climbing either the Totoket Trail or the Vista Trail. These are steep, connecting paths up to the ridge. On the ridge, you will be rewarded with great views of the Farm River Valley. Watch for wild turkeys, which have successfully re-established themselves in the area.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

### Directions and Parking:

Big Gulph's gated entrance can be reached via Middletown Avenue (Route 17), where parking is available at the Northford Playground. Trail head is accessed by walking to the back of the Northford Park past the athletic fields.

### Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

This site is for passive use and hiking only. No mechanized vehicles are permitted. A State fishing license is required for fishing along the Farm River. Wading and swimming are prohibited. Dogs are not permitted.



Hiking



Fishing



Cross  
Country  
Skiing

### For more information about this location, contact:

Regional Water Authority  
Recreation Department  
(203) 401-2654  
[www.rwater.com/recreation](http://www.rwater.com/recreation)

Questions regarding this brochure can be addressed to  
South Central Regional Council of Governments  
Phone: (203) 234-7555/Fax: (203) 234-9850  
E-mail: [trails@scrcog.org](mailto:trails@scrcog.org)




Scan QR Code to access the South Central Regional Council of  
Governments Recreational Trails Webpage

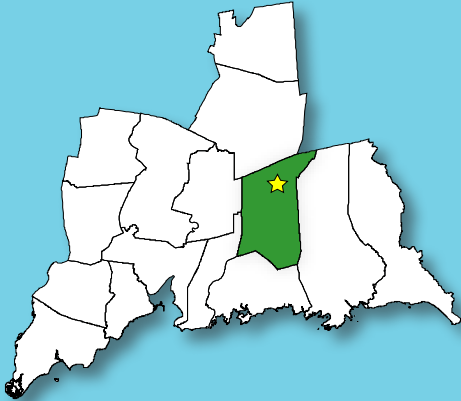


# Recreational Trails South Central Connecticut

## Big Gulph

### Regional Water Authority Permit Required



## North Branford, CT

# Big Gulph

Regional Water Authority  
Permit Required



Photo by RWA Photo Contest Winner Richard Asarisi

## Trail Description:

### Easy to Difficult Hike

Big Gulph offers a wide variety of trails and landscapes to hike and explore. The trail difficulties range from easy hikes to difficult hikes up steep terrain.

Total trails length is approx. 7.8 miles

## Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- Locked gate
- White (Francis A. Merola Trail)
- Red (Big Gulph Trail)
- White (Farm River Trail)
- Red (Totoket Trail)
- Green (Vista Trail)
- Land Trust Property
- RWA Property
- Town Property
- Wetlands
- Restricted Area
- Stream Fishing

