

Big Gulph

Regional Water Authority Permit Required

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 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

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.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

Total Trails Length: *Approx. 7.8 miles*

White (Francis A. Merola Trail): 4.37 miles. Easy to Difficult Hike

Red (Big Gulph Trail): 0.63 miles. Easy Hike

White (Farm River Trail): 0.29 miles. Easy Hike

Red (Totoket Trail): 1.11 miles. Easy to Difficult Hike

Green (Vista Trail): 0.57 miles. Easy to Difficult Hike

White/Green Trail: 0.25 miles. Easy Hike

White/Red Trail: 0.42 miles. Easy to Difficult Trail

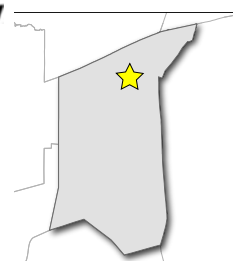


**Claire C. Bennett
Recreation
Program**
Regional Water Authority

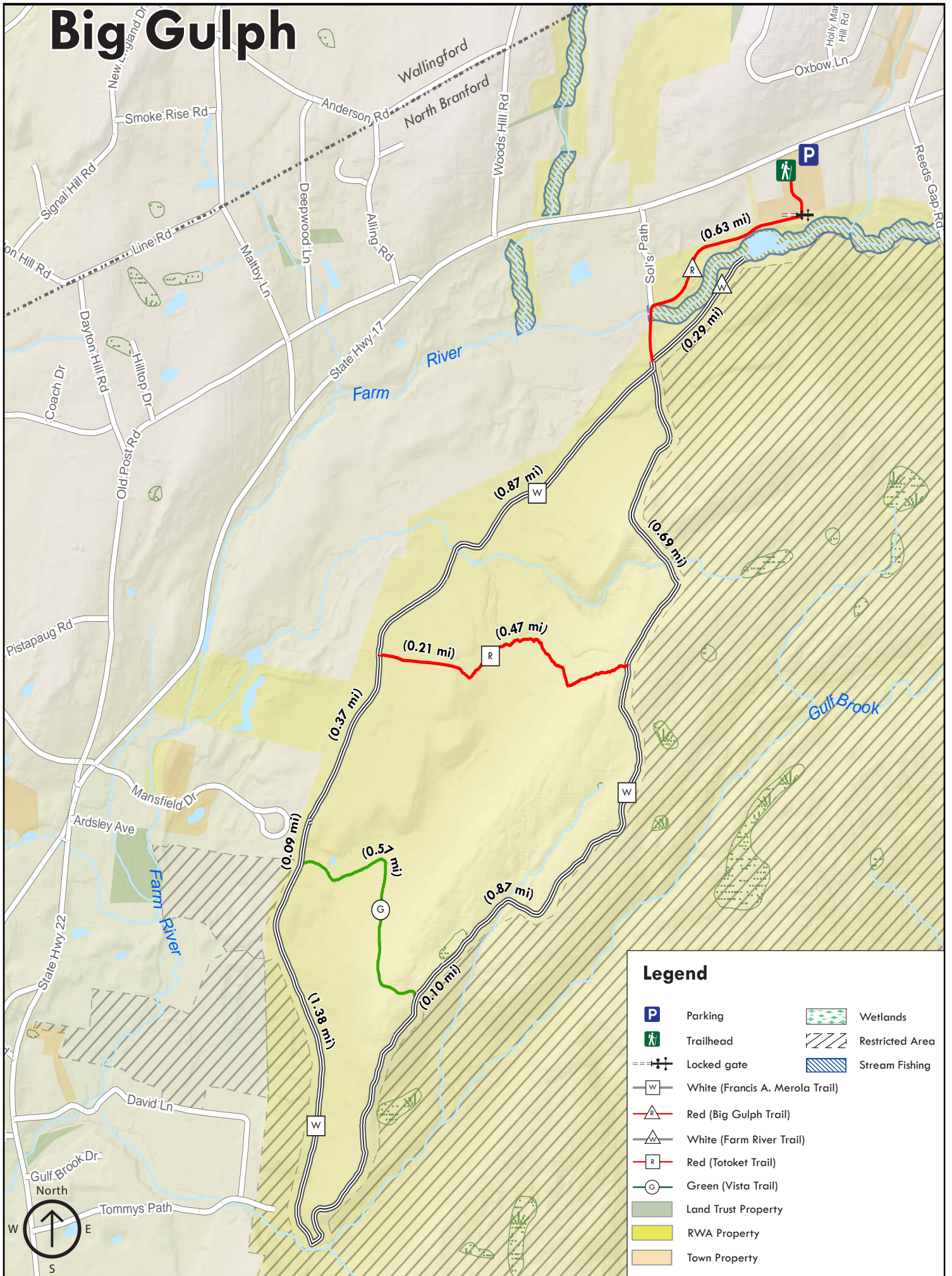
For more information about this location, contact:

Regional Water Authority
Recreation Department
(203) 401-2654

www.rwater.com/recreation



Big Gulph



Legend

Parking	Wetlands
Trailhead	Restricted Area
Locked gate	Stream Fishing
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	

