The Branford Trail: Indian Neck

The 30-mile Branford Trail is a unique trail that borders a majority of the town’s perimeter. The white circle blazed trail passes through the shoreline, wetlands, many town parks, northerly woodlands, and many Branford Land Trust properties. The trail is separated into eight sections that begin and end at a public road with space for parking. Every home in Branford is within 15-minutes walking time of a trail. The entire Branford trail is best walked in a counterclockwise direction. The Branford Trails Program exists due to the efforts of Chet Bloomquist, a retired physical education teacher who felt the need to remain physically fit and socially active. A group formed that began walking pieces of open space identified by the Branford Land Trust. Many trails were on the town perimeter that Chet felt could easily link together to create a town trail. Chet, in coordination with the Town, the Land Trust, and private land owners, was able to link the trails to make the Branford Trail a reality.

This 3.90 mile section of the Branford Trail features the Indian Neck area of Branford. This area is thought to have been a seasonal home to the Quinnipiac Indian tribe. The trail starts facing the Branford Harbor on Riverside Terrace. Before you set out, look across the harbor to Branford Point. That is where the Branford Trail ends. To start, follow the white circle blaze on roads adjacent to Pawson Park. At Linden Avenue turn left along the shoreline and take the stairs to the beach. If it’s high tide, stay on the roads. When you reach Rte 146, continue to Waverly Park Rd. Near the end of this road, there is an alternate route marked by a white circle with a red dot. This should be avoided in wet weather as the rocks may be slippery. At the end of Waverly Park Road, enter the woods and follow the white blazes to end at Pine Orchard Road.

Directions and Parking:
The Indian Neck area of Branford can be reached via I-95 (Exit 53) to West Main/South Main/Montowese Street (Route 146). The park can be reached by taking Linden Avenue to Pawson Park Road. At the beginning of the trail there is limited on street parking.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:
This trail follows public and private roads. When adjacent to private property please respect resident’s privacy. Dogs are permitted on leash. Please bag and pick up all dog waste.

Easy Hike
“Perambulate the Boundary” is a fitness and nature program presented twice a year (fall and spring). Participants walk all eight sections of the trail (each about 4 miles) over an eight week period. Upon completion, participants are awarded a “Walk the Branford Trails” patch. Of course, anyone is welcome to walk any section of the trail at any time.

Total trails length is approx. 3.90 miles

For more information about this walk contact:
Town of Branford
Parks and Open Space Authority
(203) 488-8394 ext:120