

The trail entrance offers two options. There is a short extension north of Blinshed Road which passes an old, stone-lined firepond. This section soon joins the Blinshed Loop.

The main trail proceeds south behind the Country Day School, along the west shoulder of a ridge that slopes to a wetland. Here, the forest contains large oaks, beech and tulip-poplar trees. Soon the trail enters State Forest where the presence of tree stumps indicates that this forest is under active management. At the rocky end of a ridge, descend a series of "plateaus" to near the wetland. Skunk cabbage, false hellebore and spicebush clearly delineate the wetland in early spring, and marsh marigolds occur on the banks of moving riverlets. Cross first one small stream, and then another a few yards beyond, on cedar log bridges. Soon, a crossing path (not blazed) leads southward past several excellent vernal pools (100 feet).



Leaves and flower of Tulip Poplar tree

Photo by National Park Service

### Directions and Parking:

This trail is best reached via Opening Hill Road. Opening Hill Road can be accessed off Durham Road (Route 79) directly from the north or from the south from Warpas Road, to Winterhill Road and finally connecting to Opening Hill. Continue on Opening Hill until it splits right into Blinshed Road. Parking is on the right side of the road, opposite the beginning of the trail.

### Permitted Activities:

The trails areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste. Contact the State Forest HQ for other activities allowed on their sites.



Hiking



Pets on  
Leash

### For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust  
State Forest: Eastern District HQ

[www.madisonlandtrust.org](http://www.madisonlandtrust.org)  
(860) 295-9523

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

# Blinshed Ridge



Madison, CT

# Blinnshed Ridge

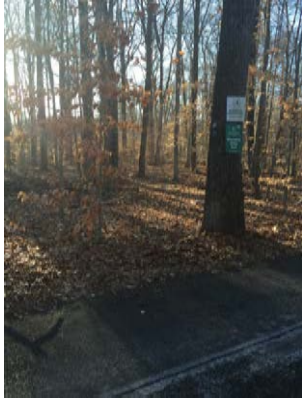


Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG











## Trail Description:

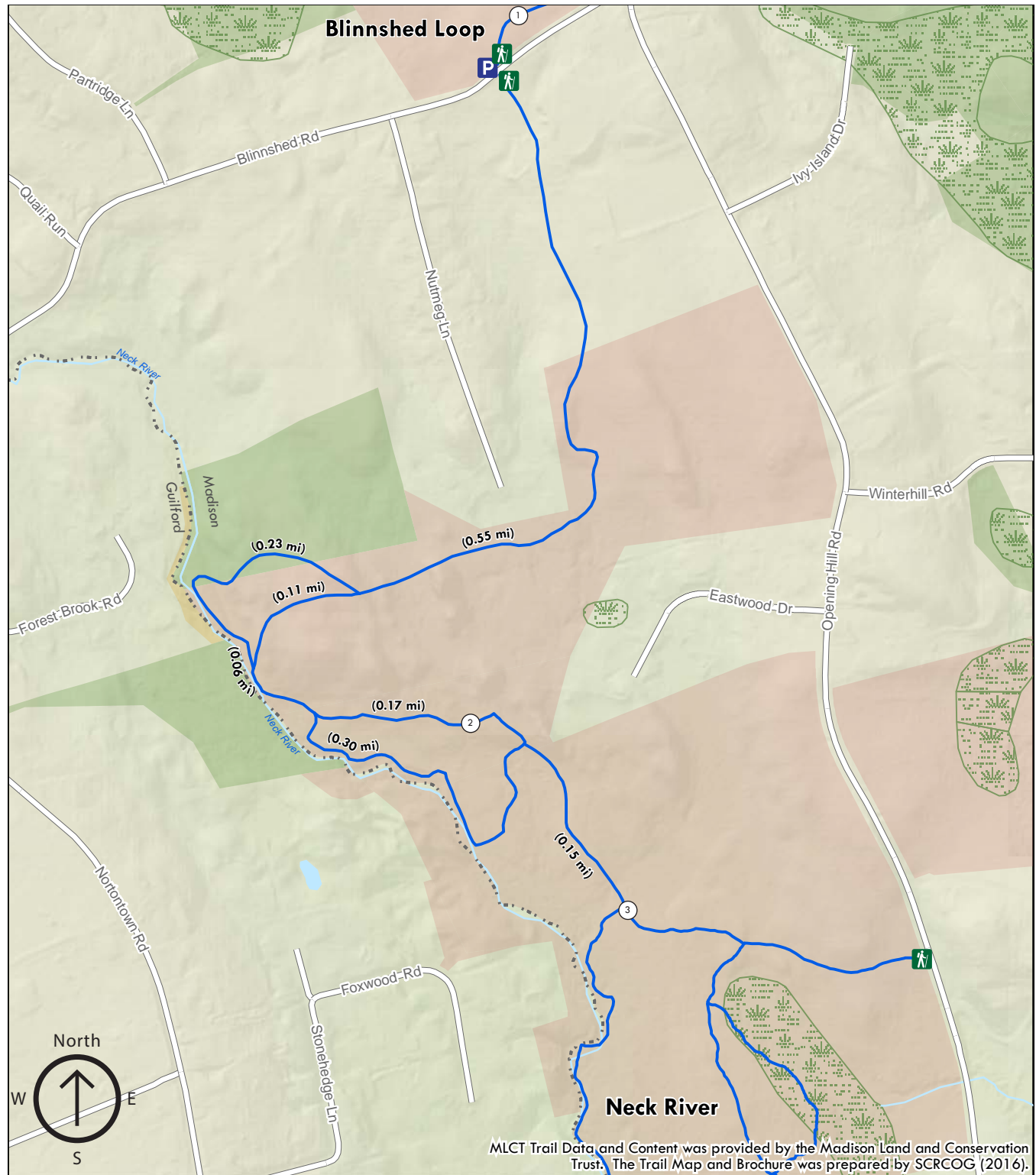
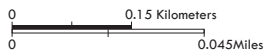
### Easy Hike

The Blinnshed Ridge Trail passes through forest communities typical of our region. Special features include several ridges alternating with narrow valley wetlands, a massive rock outcrop, and a beautiful section along the Neck River. There is an opportunity to extend the hike by joining either Blinnshed Loop or the Neck River Trail.

Total trail distance is approx. 1.57 miles

## Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  Trail Junction
-  1 Blinnshed Loop Trail
-  2 Blinnshed Ridge Trail
-  3 Neck River Trail
-  Wetlands
-  Land Trust Property
-  State Property
-  Town Property



MLCT Trail Data and Content was provided by the Madison Land and Conservation Trust. The Trail Map and Brochure was prepared by SCRCOG (2016).