

Hubbard Park

Hubbard Park is one of the area's great resources with 1,800 acres of parkland available for year-round use. The park includes the East/West Peak which is considered the highest mountain within 25 miles of the coastline from most parts of Maine to Florida. These are also known as the Hanging Hills of Meriden and is part of the Metacomet Ridge that runs from Northampton, MA to Branford, CT.

Volcanoes formed the Ridge nearly 200 million years ago when major lava flows covered Meriden. Although originally covered by other sediments, the process of erosion over time has exposed these volcanic ridges and is a primary part of the regional landscape.

Walter Hubbard, the park's namesake, was the president of the Bradley and Hubbard Manufacturing Company. He gave the land outright with no strings attached except that the park was to remain free for all residents of Meriden and that no concessions for profit are allowed within the park.

The park includes woodland, lake and stream, flower gardens, and picnic areas that were designed and constructed with the help of Frederick Law Olmstead (designer of New York's Central Park). Mirror Lake, at the southerly area of the park, was also constructed as part of this design process. The band shell was built in 1956 and is the site of numerous concerts and outdoor festivals including the Daffodil Festival usually held in April.

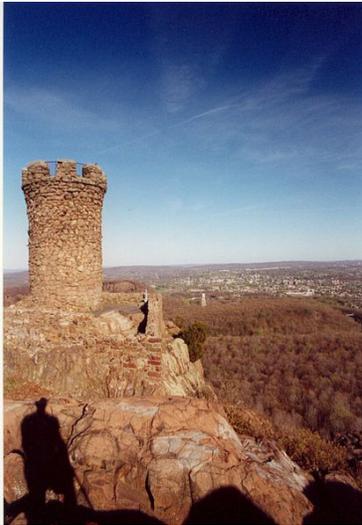


Photo by Paul Gagnon

Trail Description:

Easy to Difficult Hike

Hubbard Park offers some of the most spectacular vistas available in Meriden, including views from West Peak, East Peak and South Mountain (which actually lies outside of the park). These trap rock ridges are extremely steep, and care should be taken. In addition to trails that climb to ridgelines, there are other trails that follow relatively level terrain.

Total trails distance is approx. 15.5 miles

Directions and Parking:

The Park can be accessed via I-91 South to I-691 West to the exit for Southington/Route 322. At the end of the exit, make a left onto West Main Street. Hubbard Park is on the left, approximately 1 mile from the highway exit. As an alternative, you may take I-84 West to I-691 East to the West Main Street exit. At the end of the exit, make a right onto West Main Street and continue as above. Parking areas are readily available at the Park at the start of the trail head adjacent to Mirror Lake.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Hiking and biking is permitted. Picnic Tables are also available. Swimming, rock climbing, and boating is prohibited. Fishing allowed in Mirror Lake for those aged 15 and under.



Photo by Ben Prepelka

Total Trails Length: Approx. 15.5 mile

Blue (Metacomet Trail): 7.27 miles. Easy to Difficult Hike

Red Trail: 1.0 mile. Easy to Difficult Hike

Yellow Trail: 0.34 miles. Easy to Difficult Hike

White Trail: 2.15 miles. Easy to Difficult Hike

Orange Trail: 0.51 miles. Easy to Difficult Hike

Other Trails: 3.9 miles. Easy to Difficult Hike



For more information about this location, contact:

Town of Meriden
Recreation Program Supervisor
(203) 630-4259



