

# Peter's Rock Park

Peter's Rock is the highest point (373 feet above sea level) and largest parcel of open space (220 acres) in North Haven. The view from the summit is expansive: to the north, you can see Sleeping Giant and the Hanging Hills of Meriden; to the east, Branford and North Branford; and to the south, New Haven harbor. Peter's Rock is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Peter's Rock's principal geological feature is unique. On the western side, which is its boldest face, its pentagonal columnar formations are unlike most other rock upheavals that are part of an extensive chain of trap rock intrusions running from New Haven to the Massachusetts border.

Its main geographic features are a second-growth mixed hardwood forest, high quality wetlands, and rock outcrops. Steep slopes are found especially in the central and southern portions of the site. A stream, which flows east to west and is eight to twelve feet wide, runs through the center of Peter's Rock.

For many years Peter's Rock (then known as Indian Rock) served as an Indian lookout. Among the farmers who later claimed Indian Rock was Peter Brockett, a Revolutionary War veteran who built a small hut at the northern base of the mountain and lived there for many years. Brockett named the site Peter's Rock.

In 1901 a group of wealthy New Haven businessmen rented the summit and built an elegant hunting lodge, which they named "The Hermitage." It was used until the Great Depression, when it was abandoned. All that is left of the lodge are a few anchor rods and a dilapidated wine cellar on the southern edge of the summit. A reduced scale replica of the lodge has recently been constructed at the main entrance to Peter's Rock Park on Middletown Avenue.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

## Trail Description:

### Easy to Difficult Hike

Peter's Rock Park offers several trails on site of varying difficulties. All of the trails are under 1 mile in length but, they can be walked in various different routes to create longer hikes. While most trails are easy to moderate hikes the red trail to the summit is steep and difficult but rewards the hiker with serene views.

Total trail distance is approx. 5.34 miles

## Directions and Parking:

Peter's Rock Park main entrance is located off of Route 17 (133 Middletown Avenue) and is minutes from the New Haven/North Haven town line. Use exit 8 or 9 off of I-91, whether traveling from the north or south, to find the park just minutes away.

## Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Alcoholic beverages are absolutely prohibited along with motorized vehicles, hunting, dumping, littering, swimming, smoking and fires. Please leave with what you bring in. Take only pictures, leave only footprints.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

**Total Trails Length:** Approx. 5.34 miles

**Light Blue Trail:** 0.56 miles. Easy to Moderate Hike

**Violet Trail:** 0.71 miles. Easy to Moderate Hike

**Orange Trail:** 0.75 miles. Easy to Moderate Hike

**Red/White Trail:** 0.09 miles. Easy to Moderate Hike

**Light Blue/Orange Trail:** 0.04 miles. Easy to Moderate Hike

**Green/Orange Trail:** 0.04 miles. Easy to Moderate Hike

**White Trail:** 0.42 miles. Easy to Moderate Hike

**Red Trail:** 0.95 miles. Hard Hike

**Yellow Trail:** 0.73 miles. Easy to Moderate Hike

**Green Trail:** 0.53 miles. Easy to Moderate Hike

**Blue Trail:** 0.85 miles. Easy to Moderate Hike

**Khaki Trail:** 0.20 miles. Easy to Moderate Hike

**Pink Trail:** 0.22 miles. Easy to Moderate Hike



## For more information about this location, contact:

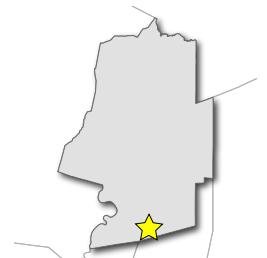
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