Racebrook Tract

The Racebrook Tract encompasses 230 acres in Orange and 181 acres in Woodbridge. The Tract was purchased from two farmers, Asa Alling and Sylvester Colburn, by the New Haven Water Company early in the 20th century. The stone walls which crisscross the Tract are the original farm fences. The management of this forest was put under the direction of the Yale School of Forestry early in the 20th century and continued until the early 1950’s when water company foresters took over. This was one of the first professionally managed forests in the country.

Because of its large size and its proximity to open space all the way to the Maltby Lakes, this is a marvelous wildlife area. The varied habitats: stream belts, forests, wetlands, meadows, and brush make this attractive to a variety of animals and songbirds. Many species of reptiles and amphibians find the habitat to their liking and even avian predators such as the Great-horned Owl can occasionally be seen.

Four blazed trails meander across fairly level land, passing through mixed hardwoods and impressive stands of white pines. Wetlands along Race Brook offer year-round birdwatching. Near the entrance to the red trail is the Orange Arboretum that features indigenous flowering species and a variety of existing red and white oak, pine oak, large, white and Norway spruce and birch trees. Each tree has a marker plate with its Latin and common names.

A handicapped accessible trail leads from the northeast corner of the parking area. The paved asphalt trail slopes to a boardwalk that makes a loop over the wetlands within the brook’s floodplain. The large graded parking area is accessed in Orange from Racebrook Road just north of Derby Avenue (Route 34).

Total Trails Length: Approx. 3.61 miles
Red Trail: 1.26 miles. Easy Hike
Purple Trail: 0.74 miles. Easy Hike
Green Trail: 0.55 miles. Easy Hike
White Trail: 0.52 miles. Easy Hike
Unblazed Trails: 0.38 miles. Easy Hike
Brown (Nature Trail): 0.16 Easy Hike

For more information about this location, contact:
Orange Conservation Commission
(203) 891-4768
www.orangectconservationcommission.com/

Trail Description:

Easy Hike
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Total trails distance is approx. 3.61 miles