

Bladen's Brook, Russell Swamp & Round Hill Trails

Bladen's Brook, Russell Swamp, and the Round Hill Trails create part of the Woodbridge Greenway Trails System that is maintained by the Woodbridge Land Trust. As part of the Greenway, the trails connect into the Town's Elderslie Preserve and Regional Water Authority lands (access only for recreational permit holders). The trails can also be combined with hiking in the Town of Bethany's Bethany Farms Trail System to the north. At this location on Route 67 the Naugatuck Trail (blue trail) splits, creating an East/West branch and a North/South branch. From here, one can go to Bethany, Hamden or New Haven.

From the parking lot, the hiker can follow the Blue Trail East along the Bladen's Brook area through Russell Swamp and climb Round Hill. Here the steep ascent moves to the top of the glacial drumlin rising some 650 feet above sea level with a breathtaking panorama extending all the way to Long Island Sound. This view is best when the leaves are off the trees.

Alternatively, from the parking lot, the Blue Trail North crosses over the bridge and Sanford Road and meanders through the trails on the Town-owned 44-acre Bladens River Tract. From this area, one can look north from the Woodbridge Greenway Trail to Sanford Road where there is a stone embankment just east of the Thomas Sanford house. It is thought that this location is where the world's first friction matches were made.

This Yankee enterprise, which displaced the time-honored flint stone as a means for starting fire, later in the nineteenth century became the Diamond Match Company. All that remains of the factory is the stone retaining wall. This trail crosses a steep area and leads to the Bethany Farms Trail System.

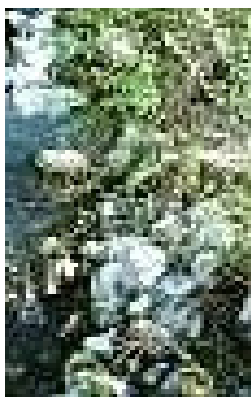


Photo By Paul Decoster, Woodbridge

Trail Description:

Easy or Difficult hike

The Bladen's Brook and Russell Swamp trails are a leisurely hike. The Round Hill trail, alternatively, offers more of a challenge.

Total Trails Length: Approx. 1.4 miles

Directions and Parking:

In Woodbridge, the main parking is located just off Seymour Road (Route 67). From Amity Shopping Center take Amity Road (Route 63) north approximately 3 miles to left on Seymour Road (Route 67). Go approximately 2 miles to parking lot on right, just after gas line.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

This land is for passive recreation use only. No motorized vehicles are permitted. Dogs are permitted on leash. Please bag and pick up all dog waste. Hunting or trapping is prohibited. Horseback riding is prohibited. Due to raised boardwalk through swamp, small children or pets are not recommended.

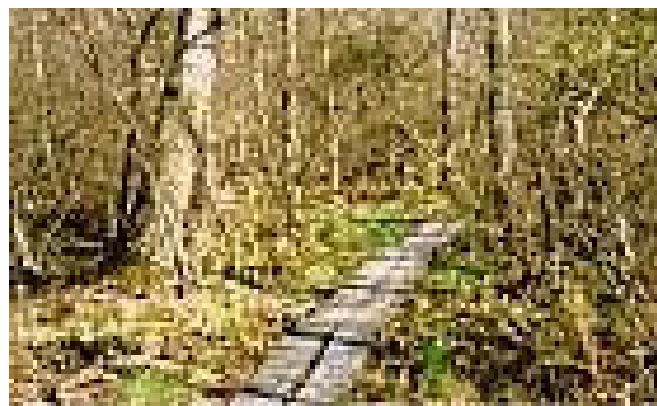


Photo By Paul Decoster, Woodbridge Conservation Commission

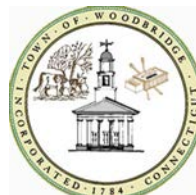
Total Trails Length: Approx. 4.5 miles

Yellow Trail : 0.13 miles. Easy Hike

Yellow Trail (Ridge Trail): 0.62 miles. Easy Hike

Yellow Trail (Big Tree Trail): 0.34 miles. Easy Hike

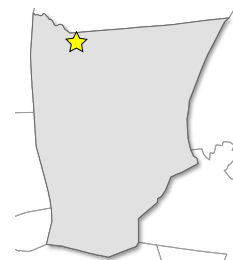
Blue Trail (Naugatuck Trail): 1.59 miles. Easy Hike



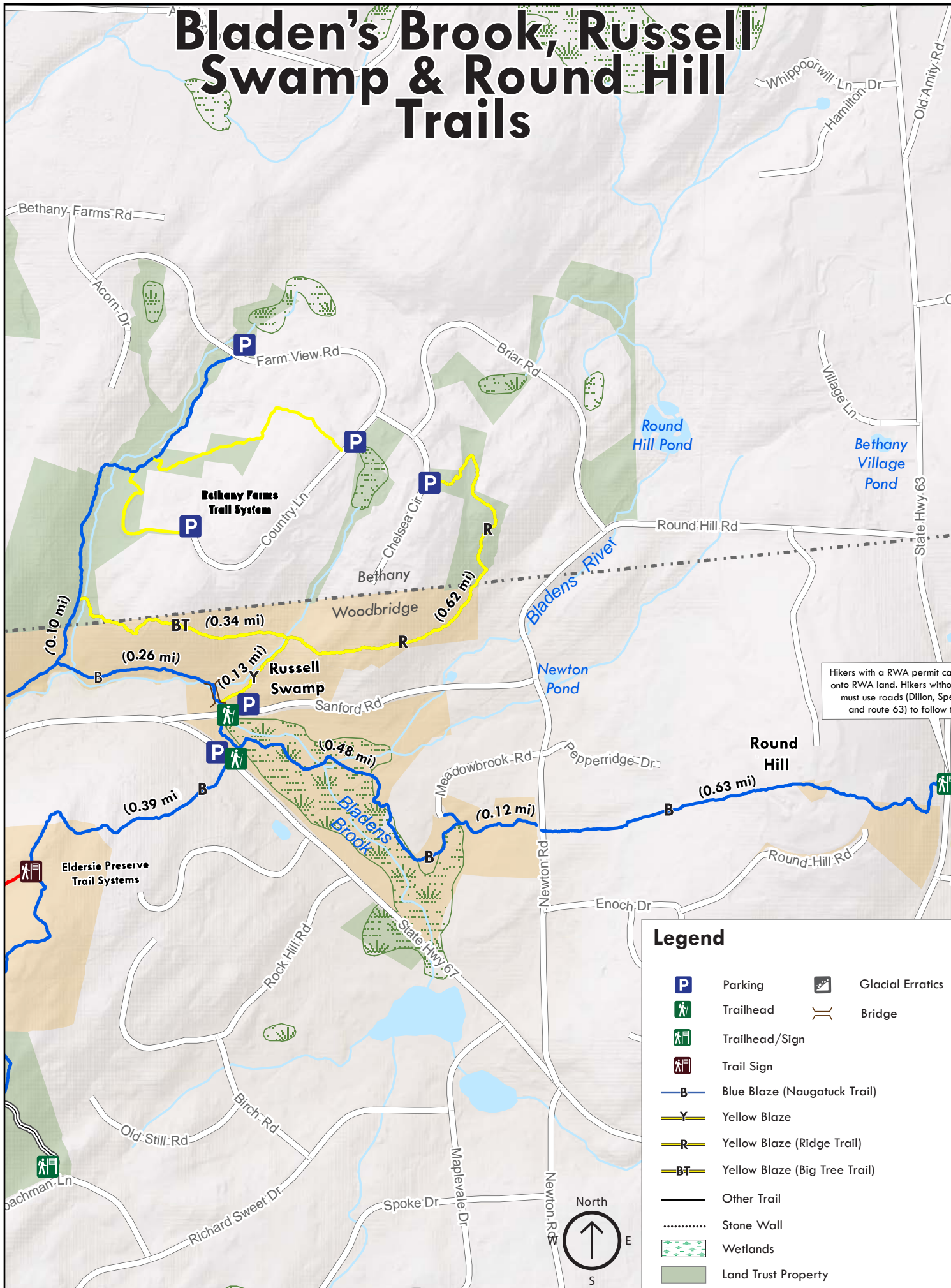
For more information about this location, contact:

Woodbridge Land Trust, Inc. or
Town of Woodbridge
(203) 389-3400

www.woodbridgect.org

















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Hikers with a RWA permit can onto RWA land. Hikers without must use roads (Dillon, Sp and route 63) to follow t

Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  Trailhead/Sign
-  Trail Sign
-  Blue Blaze (Naugatuck Trail)
-  Yellow Blaze
-  Yellow Blaze (Ridge Trail)
-  Yellow Blaze (Big Tree Trail)
-  Other Trail
-  Stone Wall
-  Wetlands
-  Land Trust Property
-  Glacial Erratics
-  Bridge

