

Brooksvale Park

Sometime between 1856 and 1860, the Town of Hamden leased Enos Brooks' farm on Brooksvale Avenue for use as a "poor farm". In 1860 Enos Brooks died and willed the farm to the town with a life lease for his wife Roxana, for the sum of \$100.00 annually. For a period of time between 1860 and 1880 Roxana did not live in the farmhouse. She returned in 1880 and died on the farm shortly thereafter and is buried at the Central Burying Ground.

In 1947, the park officially became known as Brooksvale Park. This name obviously comes from the name of the family that donated the land, Brooks, and a term for a small valley that encompasses the park: a vale. The Park has its own Ranger who lives on site who manages and coordinates all activities and maintenance. In 2003, the Friends of Brookvale Park was founded to assist in preserving the park and its trails.

The trail system has many special features. A geologic landmark called a drumlin is located at the northern end of the Pink Birding Trail near the corner of Mount Sanford and Brooksvale Roads. A drumlin is a mound created by the piling up by glacial action of compacted moraine around a knob of bedrock. There are also several glacial erratics - large rocks deposited far from their place of origin by retreating glaciers. Examples are located just north of the Duck Pond along the Green Trail and just uphill from the Picnic Pavilion. A white-blazed Tree Identification Trail has 24 marked trees along its 0.75 mile length with a 3-tree quiz at the end. A brochure can be downloaded at <http://www.brooksvalepark.com/nature-trail>.

Along this trail is the 'Hidden Pond' formed by a man-made dam on Hickory Brook. There are also many stone walls along the trails - reminders of the days when this was active farmland. The Farmington Canal Trail is accessible to the Park via a paved spur and the White and Yellow Trails of the Mount Sanford Tract of the Naugatuck State Forest connect to the Park along its western boundary.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

Directions and Parking:

Brooksvale Park is located just off Whitney Avenue (Route 10) in northern Hamden near the Cheshire town line. Take a left onto Brooksvale Avenue. Follow Brooksvale Avenue about a mile until you see signs for parking on the left.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

This land is for passive recreation use only. No motorized vehicles are permitted. Dogs are allowed leashed. Please pick up all animal waste.

Trail Description: Easy to Moderate Hike

Total Trails Length: Approx. 10 miles

Green Perimeter Trail: 4.78 miles.

Blue Mid-line Trail: 1.15 miles

Red Trail: 1 mi

Orange Trail: 0.45 mi

Purple Trail: 0.54 mi

Pink Birding Trail: 0.37mi

Yellow Trail: 0.39 mi

Other Trails: 1.71 mi



Photo by Carrie Gazda, Hamden Parks & Recreation

For more information about this location, contact:

Brooksvale Park, Town of Hamden

Phone: (203) 287-2669

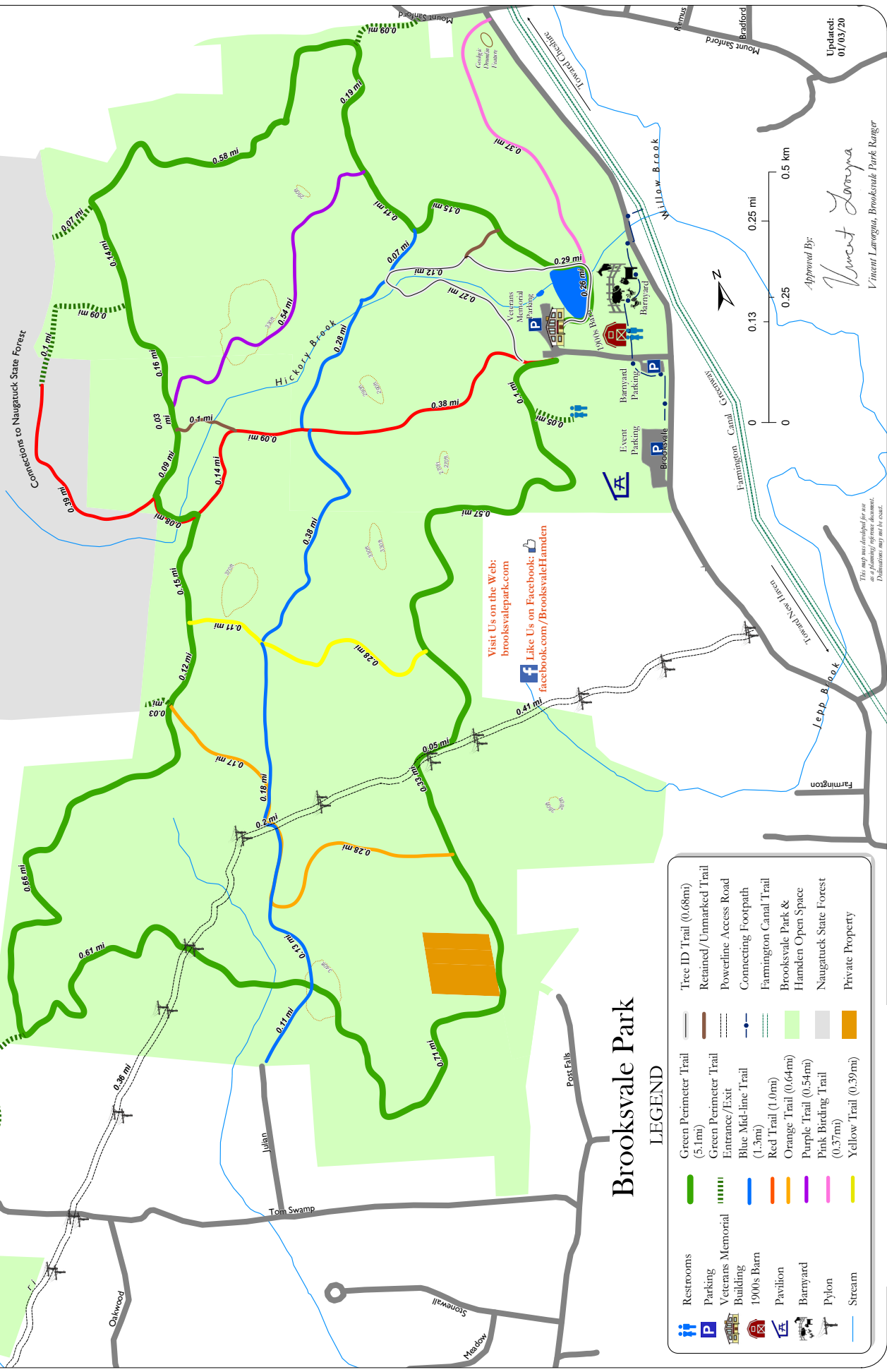
Email: Brooksvale@Hamden.com





Brooksville Park
524 Brooksville Avenue
Handen, CT 06518
brooksville@handen.com

Naugatuck State Forest
(Mt. Sanford Block)



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Brooksville Park

LEGEND

	Restrooms		Green Perimeter Trail (5.1mi)		Tree ID Trail (0.68mi)
	Parking		Green Perimeter Trail Entrance/Exit		Retained/Unmarked Trail
	Veterans Memorial Building		Blue Mid-line Trail (1.3mi)		Powerline Access Road
	1900s Barn		Red Trail (1.0mi)		Connecting Footpath
	Pavilion		Orange Trail (0.64mi)		Farmington Canal Trail
	Barnyard		Purple Trail (0.54mi)		Brooksville Park & Handen Open Space
	Pylon		Pink Birding Trail (0.37mi)		Naugatuck State Forest
	Stream		Yellow Trail (0.39mi)		Private Property

This map was developed for use as a planning reference document. Distances may not be exact.