

The Branford Trail: Quarry - Westwoods

The 30-mile Branford Trail is a unique trail that borders a majority of the town's perimeter. The white circle blazed trail passes through the shoreline, wetlands, many town parks, northerly woodlands, and many Branford Land Trust properties. The trail is separated into eight sections that begins and ends at a public road with space for parking. Every home in Branford is within 15-minutes walking time of a trail. The entire Branford trail is best walked in a counter-clockwise direction.

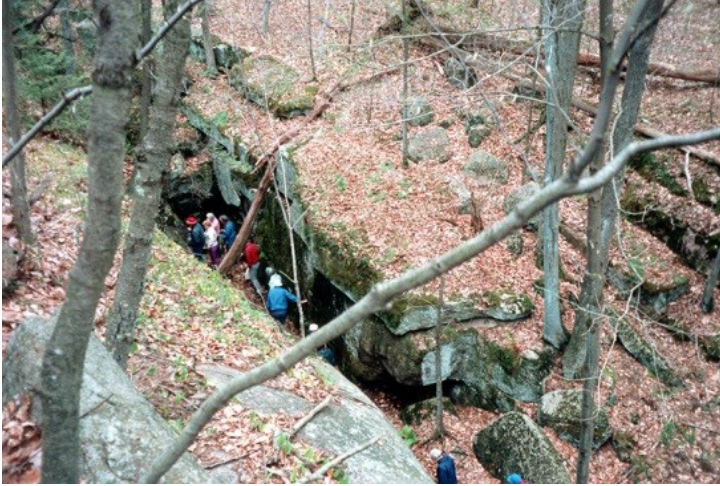


Photo by Chet Bloomquist

This 3.3 mile section of the Branford Trail features the Stony Creek Quarry Preserve and travels along the Branford/Guilford boundary entering Guilford for short portion of the trail. The trail starts at the Quarry parking lot, but mostly then travels to the east of the Quarry. The trail travels through a ravine and then turns eastward into Guilford. The trail turns south briefly, passes through a narrow gorge (shown below) and then turns north again on Granite Road near The Gables (a retirement village). A special feature of the trail (shown reverse) is an area where there is a collection of "selectman's stones." Historically the First Selectman of each town would annually walk the town boundary. A marker was left with the date and the person's initials. There are additional trails within the 450+ acre Stony Creek Quarry Preserve which also connects to Guilford's extensive Westwoods trail system.



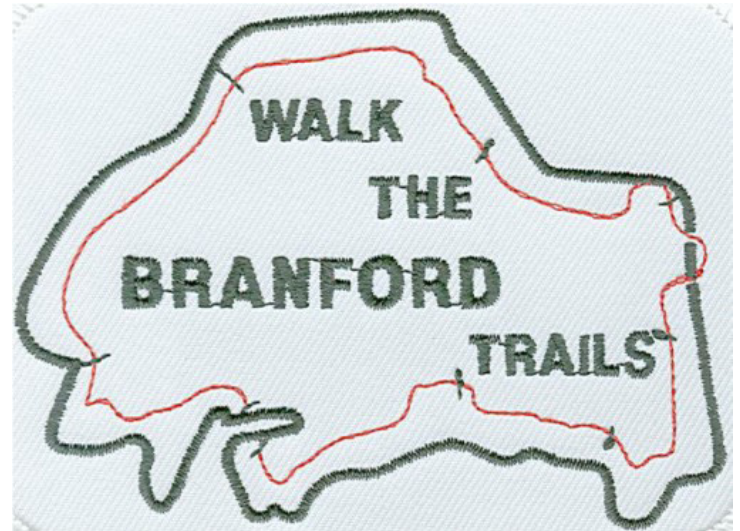
Photo by Chet Bloomquist

Directions and Parking:

Take Stony Creek Road (Route 146) to Quarry Road to reach the Stony Creek Quarry Preserve. Parking is on Quarry Road at the start of the trail just after passing through the wetlands.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

This trail follows public and private roads. When adjacent to private property please respect resident's privacy. Dogs are permitted on leash. Please bag and pick up all dog waste.



Design for the Logo and Patch by Ralph Fuller

Easy Hike to Moderate Hike

Quarrying of famous Stony Creek granite originated in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The quarry has been in continuous operation since before the Civil War, and its Stony Creek panels formed the base of the Statue of Liberty, Grand Central Terminal in New York, the cladding for the Brooklyn Bridge, and South Station in Boston. In 1978, Stony Creek granite was chosen by architect Philip Johnson as the exterior veneer on the AT&T headquarters in New York, which led to the reemergence of the use of architectural granite.

Total trails length is approx. 3.3 miles



For more information about this walk contact:

Town of Branford
Parks and Open Space Authority
(203) 488-8394 ext:120

