

The Branford Trail: Stony Creek

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 begin and end 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 counterclockwise direction.

This 4.08 mile section of the Branford Trail features the Stony Creek area of Branford. Stony Creek is a little fishing village and summer resort that has been permanently settled since the 1800s and is nestled among the inlets of the Sound. The trail then hugs the Guilford town line as it moves northward.



Photo by Branford Recreation

The trail passes through the Stony Creek area on Thimble Island Rd and turns left onto Buena Vista Rd. After entering the woods, there is a short-cut alternative (white circle blaze with a red dot, saves about 1/2 a mile) over to Jarvis Creek.

The trail crosses Jarvis Creek on a now unused tidal gate and continues onto Leetes Island Road (Route 146). At the railroad underpass, the trail turns north through the woods and over several hills to the Stony Creek Quarry Preserve parking lot. The trail also passes through some wetlands which may generally be muddy, especially during the rainy season.



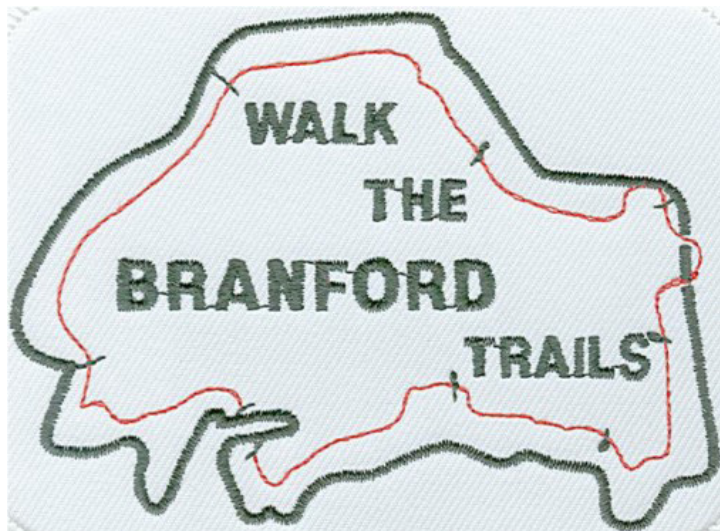
Photo from SCRCOG Archives

Directions and Parking:

Parking for this portion of the Branford Trail is at the ball field on West Point Road or around the flag triangle on Thimble Island Road. Both are located near the center of Stony Creek. The center can be reached from Route 146 (Leetes Island Road).

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 to Moderate Hike

The Thimble Islands, named for the thimbleberry, a relative of the black raspberry, are an archipelago of small islands off the coast of Branford's Stony Creek area. They were known to the Mattabeset Indians as "the beautiful sea rocks" and they consist of a jumble of granite rocks, ledges, and outcroppings resulting from glaciations. The islands number between 100 and 365 depending on where the line is drawn between an island and a mere rock.

Total Trails Length: approx. 4.08 miles



For more information about this walk contact:

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

