

# The Branford Trail: Short Beach

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 4.5 mile section of the Branford Trail features the Short Beach area of Branford. Roughly a mile wide, Short Beach is the most western neighborhood in Branford and is home to many small islands important as bird habitats. Short Beach is home to half of the Trolley Museum which is shared by neighboring East Haven. A 3-day festival is held in this area of town at the end of summer called Short Beach Days with a parade, lip synching, races, basketball, and sand castle building.



Photo by Chet Bloomquist

The trail starts at the end of Dominican Road and goes up and over Beacon Hill. The trail then follows the trolley line into Short Beach. Take Beckett Ave which runs parallel to the beach, or if the tide is right you can walk along the beach instead. Then follow the white blazes along Shore Line Drive (aka Short Beach Road or Route 142) to Double Beach Rd, Howard Ave, and Brocketts Point Rd back to Short Beach Rd. The trail continues through Harbor Village and east on Stannard Ave. A right turn onto Cove Terrace leads to a path to the Parker Memorial Park parking lot at Branford Point. Walk down Harbor Street to its end at Branford Harbor. From there you can look across to the beginning of the Branford Trail at Riverside Terrace on Indian Neck..

## Directions and Parking:

Parking for this portion of the Branford Trail is at the end of Dominican Road. Dominican Road can be accessed off of Route 1 on the town line between Branford and East Haven.

## 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.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

## Easy Hike

A special feature of this section of the Branford Trail is the Beacon Hill Lookout. Years of excavation have created a spectacular vantage point for viewing New Haven to the West and Long Island Sound. There is a particularly good view of the East Haven Trolley line.

Total trail length is approx. 5.0 miles



## For more information about this walk contact:

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

