

Town of Branford, CT

Recreational Trails

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BR2: Hoadley Creek Preserve

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BR11: Young's Pond & Bob's Woods

The Branford Trail

BT1: Short Beach

BT2: Indian Neck

BT3: Pine Orchard

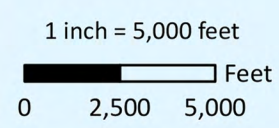
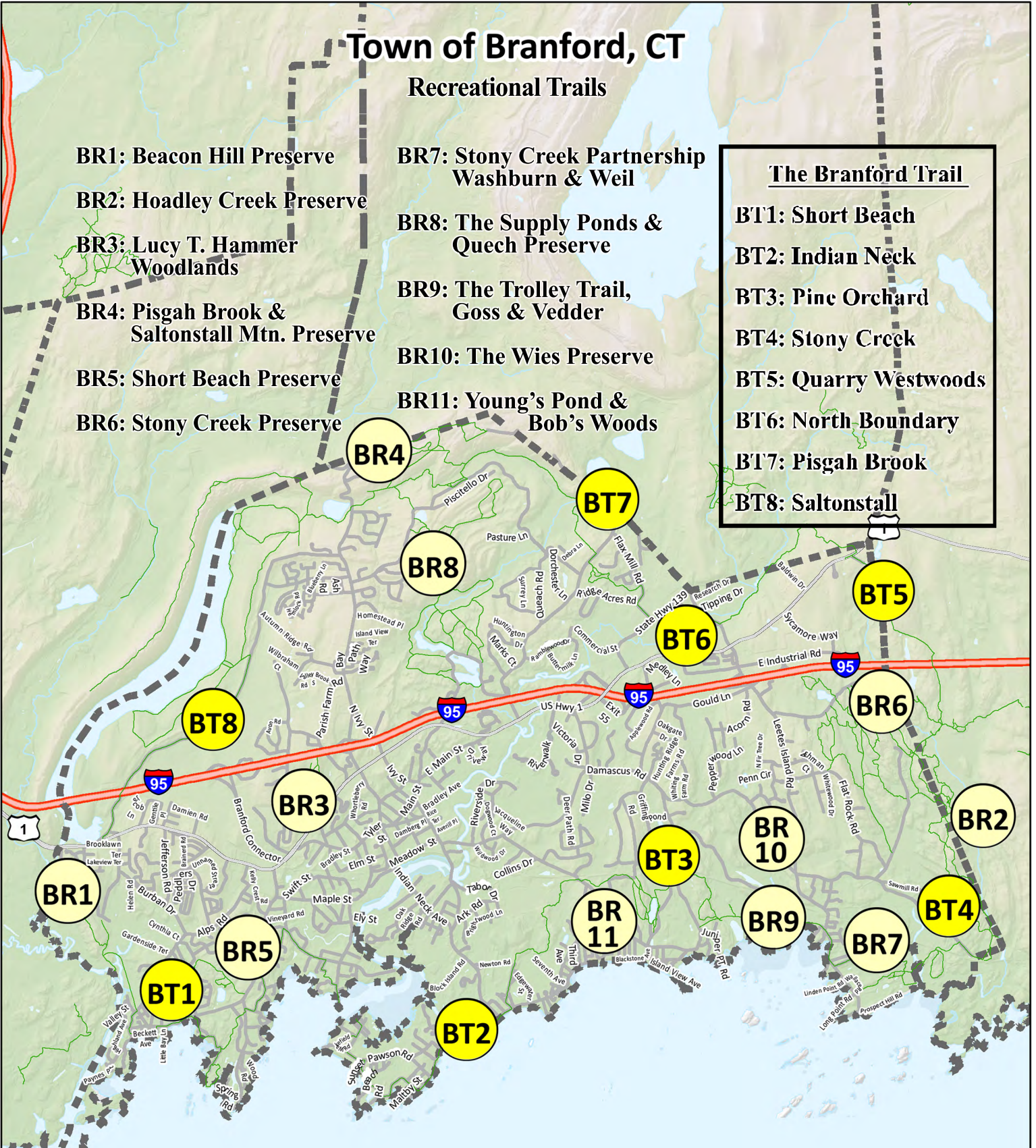
BT4: Stony Creek

BT5: Quarry Westwoods

BT6: North Boundary

BT7: Pisgah Brook

BT8: Saltonstall



Beacon Hill Preserve

Beacon Hill is a 100-foot high traprock ridge overlooking the Farm River marshes. The southern tip of the ridge was quarried between 1894 and 1914, leaving a steep cliff with a hollowed-out low area at the base. The property is skirted on the south by the tracks of the Shoreline Trolley Museum (Branford Electric Railway Museum), which has its base in East Haven. When the trolleys are running, for a small fee, you can take a refurbished antique trolley across the marshes and be let off at the foot of the hill. The public portion of the ridge is 60 acres.

The campaign to save Beacon Hill spanned eight years. Neighbors, with the support of Branford Land Trust, fought off three development proposals. The state eventually agreed to buy Beacon Hill for preservation but provided only half the funding, so the land trust mounted an unprecedented, and successful, fund-raising campaign, with the Town contributing \$800,000. The final challenge was a referendum called on the town funding; this was defeated and the town funding was approved by the voters. Beacon Hill is now owned by the State of Connecticut but managed by the Town of Branford.

From early April through May, the Beacon Hill Preserve produces a dazzling succession of wildflowers, in an abundance found in few other spots in Branford. Dutchman's breeches, wild leek, bloodroot, trout lily, columbine, wood anemone, blue cohosh, jack-in-the-pulpit, and cranesbill are the more prevalent species. At any time of the year, Beacon Hill is worth visiting for its spectacular views of Long Island Sound and the Farm River marshes.

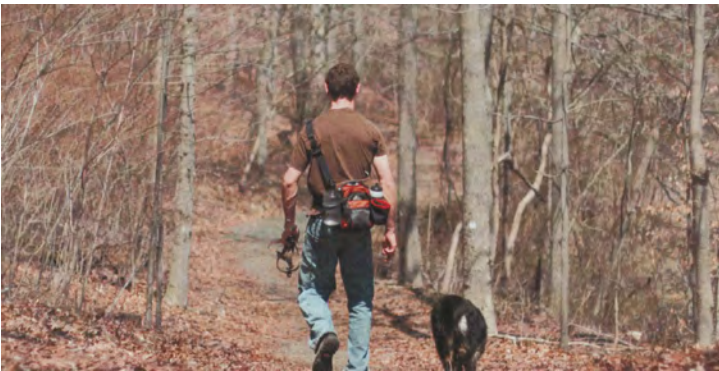


Photo by Branford Land Trust

Easy to Moderate Hike

This small trail system on State land is suitable for all seeking a short hike to get views of Long Island Sound and the marshes that surround the area of the Farm River. While the main trails lie on State land there is also access to the Branford Trail that connects to several other trail complexes via a 28 mile town wide loop. **Please note: The trail follows an active railroad so use caution.**

Total trails distance is approx. 1.08 miles

Directions and Parking:

Follow Route 1 toward East Haven and go left on Pent Road. Park on the left at the hairpin curve, or at the end of Dominican Road, which goes south from Route 1 just before the East Haven town line.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Properties are open during daylight hours plus one hour before and after. Stay on the trails and please carry out everything you carry in. Hunting or the use of BB guns and air rifles is prohibited. No open fires or camping. Motorized vehicles are strictly prohibited and violators will be prosecuted. Follow the classic counsel to leave a place or trail better than you found it.



Photo by Branford Land Trust

Total Trails Length: approx. 1.08 miles

Red Trail: 0.46 miles

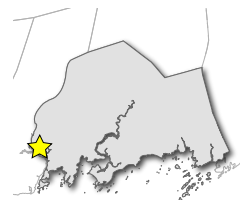
The Branford Trail: 0.72 miles

The Branford Trail Connector: 0.55 miles

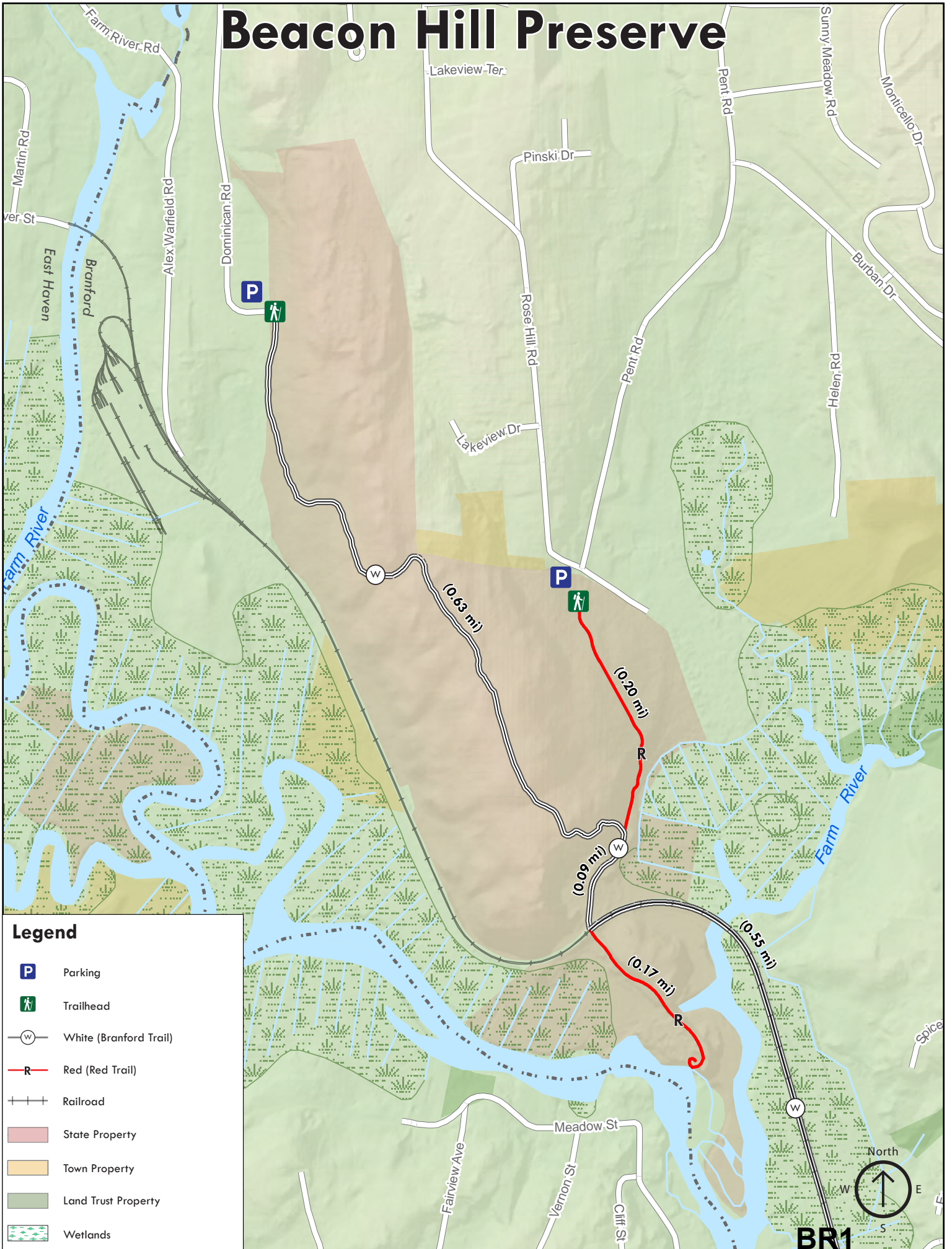


For more information about this walk contact:

Branford Land Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 254, Branford, CT 06405
(203) 393-2100 ext:127



Beacon Hill Preserve



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- White (Branford Trail)
- Red (Red Trail)
- Railroad
- State Property
- Town Property
- Land Trust Property
- Wetlands

BR1

Hoadley Creek Preserve

The 111-acre Hoadley Creek Preserve came into being through three acquisitions. The first was in 1996, when the Branford Land Trust and Guilford Land Conservation Trust were approached by members of the Pinchot Family, descendants of early 20th-century conservationist Gifford Pinchot, about buying their 47-acre parcel, which straddled the town line. Pinchot was the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service and founder of the Yale School of Forestry in 1900. The two land trusts jumped at the chance to protect the property, not only for its scenic value, but also to protect the upper reaches of Hoadley Creek. The two groups raised the money to buy the parcel and now own and manage the property jointly. A few years later, the preserve was expanded through the purchase of a 47-acre property from Jay Medlyn, the third generation of a family that used the land for farming and dairy operations. In 2005, the Branford Land Trust bought a 17-acre parcel uniting the Medlyn property with the Stony Creek Quarry Preserve, thus accomplishing a long-term goal. A monument here dedicates this parcel to Lisa Santcroce, an ardent Branford environmental activist who inspired many fellow Branford Land Trust members before dying of cancer at the age of 39.

Remarkable and delightful natural features abound on this preserve. On entering from Route 146, you can enjoy a close-up view of a pocket of salt marsh frequented in the warm months by snow-white egrets. A short distance beyond is a hidden pond, with its waters cascading over a stone dam; upstream, high cliffs cast their shadow over a rocky creek. Farther uphill, the property is bursting with huge glacial erratics - boulders dumped by the glacier that covered the region some 30,000 years ago. The sheer size of these granite behemoths caused the Yale Peabody Museum to write, "I know of no other area in New England where this concentration of boulders can be duplicated. The image of these giants scattered among slender trees is one not easily forgotten."



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis

Directions and Parking:

Follow Leetes Island Road (Route 146) toward Guilford. On Leetes Island Road, a parking lot will be on your left just before the train tracks. Alternatively, take a left on Quarry Road and park in the lot on your right just after the road becomes unpaved to access Stony Creek Preserve which connects to Hoadley Creek Preserve.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Properties are open during daylight hours plus one hour before and after. Stay on the trails and please carry out everything you carry in. Hunting or the use of BB guns and air rifles is prohibited. No open fires or camping. Motorized vehicles are strictly prohibited and violators will be prosecuted. Follow the classic counsel to leave a place or trail better than you found it.



Photo by Branford Land Trust

Easy to Moderate Hike

Walks of the Hoadley Creek Preserve are diverse, offering everything from a casual stroll to a more strenuous trek. Flowing brooks, wetlands, open fields, and ragged rock outcrops make for an exciting trip regardless of the trail selected.

Total Trails Length: approx. 3.20 miles

Red Trail: 1.11 miles

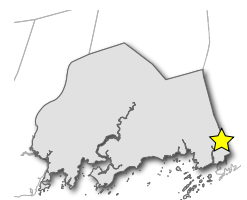
The Branford Trail: 1.49 miles

Unblazed Trails: 0.60 miles

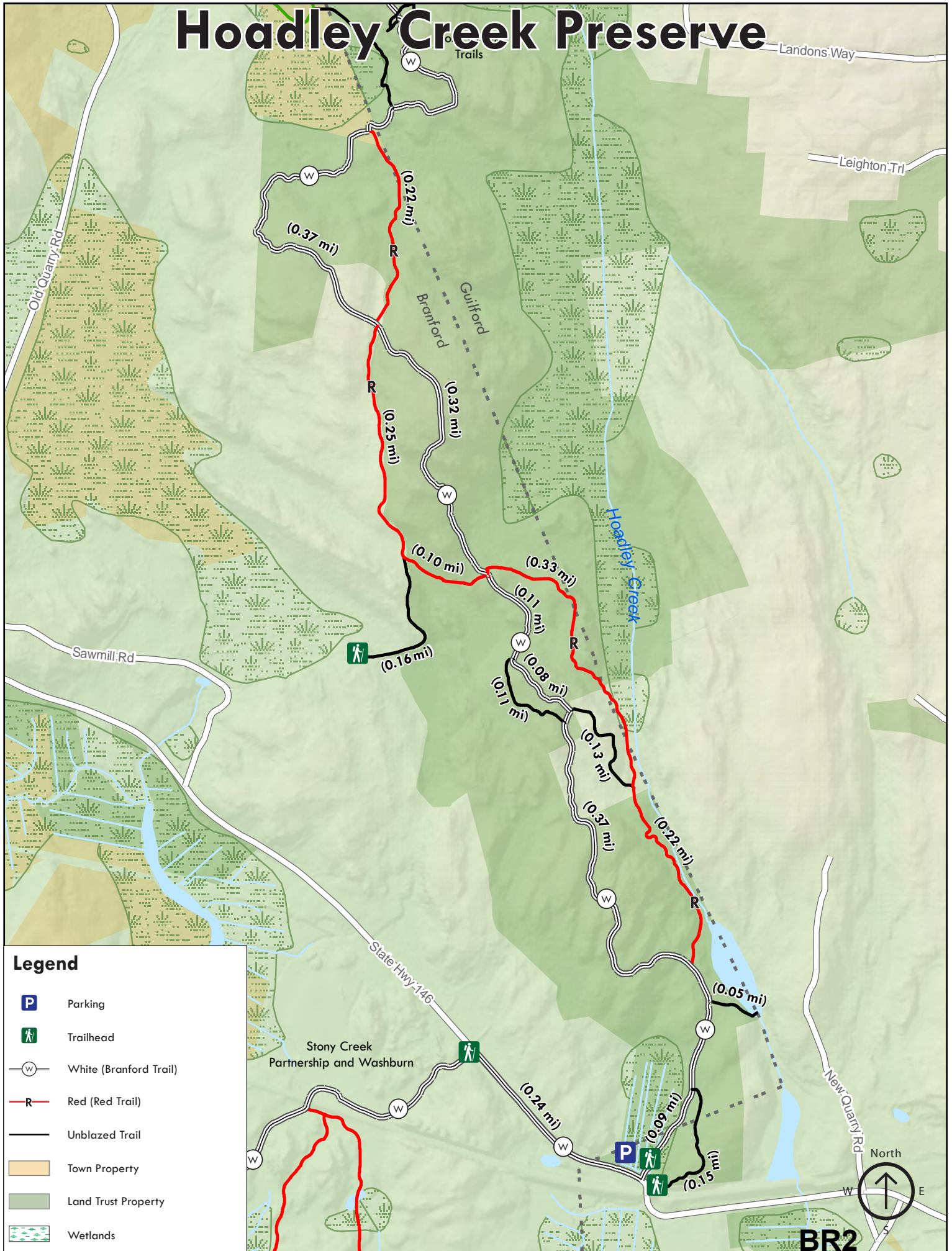


For more information about this walk contact:









Branford Land Trust, Inc.
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Hoadley Creek Preserve



Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  White (Branford Trail)
-  Red (Red Trail)
-  Unblazed Trail
-  Town Property
-  Land Trust Property
-  Wetlands

BR2

Lucy T. Hammer Woodlands

Lucy T. Hammer moved to Branford in 1927 after marrying her husband, Thorvald. He soon succeeded his father as president and general manager of Malleable Iron Fittings, a company that employed many Branford residents in an enormous factory on the Branford River. Mrs. Hammer became an important member of the Branford community in her own right, serving six years in the State House of Representatives and twelve in the Senate.



Photo by Branford Land Trust

Lucy Hammer cherished this land for the ponds, the wildflowers, and the space for contemplation. In 1984, the Hammers donated 23 acres to the Branford Land Trust; eight years later Mrs. Hammer added another four acres, an open meadow fronting on Cherry Hill Road, which she called "The Lea." At the time of her 1984 gift, Mrs. Hammer told the *Branford Review*, "I love the land. It sounds high-flown, but that's all it is."

The Hammer Woodlands preserve an interesting natural cultural history. In 1674 the property was deeded to Isaac Bradley, whose family would clear the forest for grazing and agriculture for the next two centuries. The Bradleys also created the three ponds now on the property; these were part of the Branford's flourishing ice business in the first decades of the 20th century. After the ice was harvested in the winter, it was stored in a stone building, the foundation of which is still standing not far from Gurd's Pond, named for Gurdon Bradley, the grandson of the original builder of the dam. Reforestation of the site began again in the mid-1800s as residents abandoned farming and took up industrial work.



Photo by Bill Horne

Directions and Parking:

From I-95 North or South take exit 54 and then proceed on to Cedar Street southbound. Take a right onto North Main Street (Route 1) and follow it until Cherry Hill Road. Take a right onto Cherry Hill Road and the trail head to Lucy T. Hammer Woods will be on the right across from Sundance Drive

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Properties are open during daylight hours plus one hour before and after. Stay on the trails and please carry out everything you carry in. Hunting or the use of BB guns and air rifles is prohibited. No open fires or camping. Motorized vehicles are strictly prohibited and violators will be prosecuted. Follow the classic counsel to leave a place or trail better than you found it.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis

Easy Hike

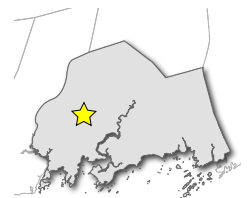
The high point of the property is Todd's Hill traprock ridges. Don't miss the wildflowers, particularly noteworthy on the east side of Todd's Hill Ridge, in early spring. To the north of the pond visitors will also find a collection of some of the older trees of Branford, mostly hardwoods, thriving in the nutrient-rich microclimate in the shadows of Todd's Hill Ridge.

Total Trails Length: approx. 0.94 miles

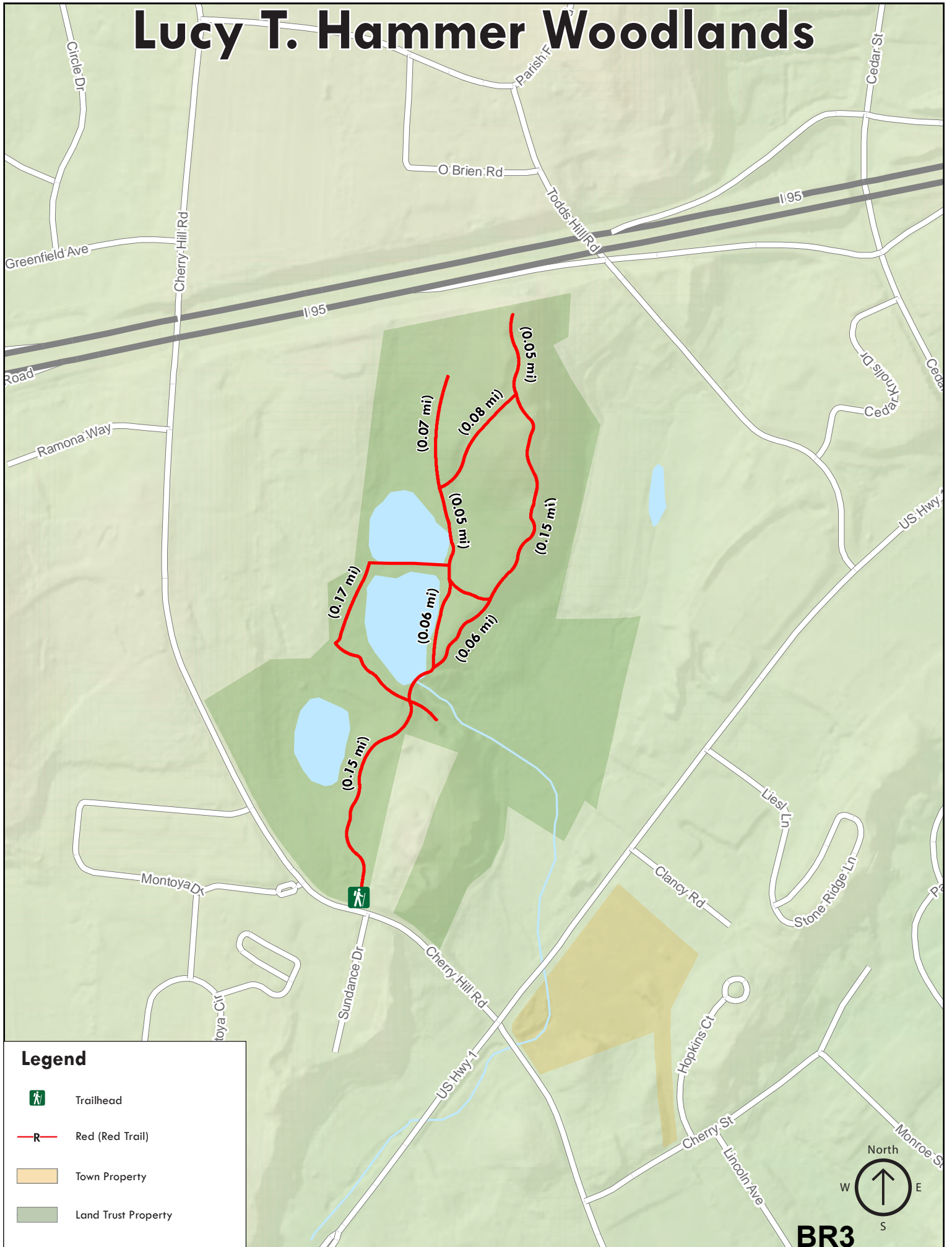


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Lucy T. Hammer Woodlands



Pisgah Brook & Saltonstall Preserves

The Pisgah Brook and Saltonstall Mountain Preserves are both parts of a steep traprock ridge that reaches from west to east, straddling the Branford/North Branford border. To the south of this ridge is an equally steep sandstone slope, and deep between these two hills flows Pisgah Brook. Pisgah Brook flows into Queach Brook, which empties into the Branford River. Water from the north slope of Saltonstall Mountain drains into the Farm River, which feeds the Lake Saltonstall Reservoir; thus the preservation of this area helps maintain water quality in two watersheds and helps protect a public water supply.

When the Pisgah Brook property was offered to the Town in 1984 by the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, the Branford Land Trust pushed hard by its acquisition by the Town. Though there were some twists and turns in the road, the project was not a protracted struggle, in part because Town officials realized the extremely steep rocky slopes were unsuitable for development. Since the Town acquisition, the preserve has been enlarged slightly by three adjacent parcels. One was bought by the Town, the other two donated by the Foote Family Charitable Trust.

In 2004, a large abutting property-now the Saltonstall Preserve-was offered to the Town by its private owners. At the time, the property was the second largest undeveloped in Branford. The Saltonstall Mountain acquisition was truly a team effort, with support from not only the Town but also the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, the Branford Land Trust, the North Branford Land Trust, Friends of the Farm River Estuary, and the Farm River Protective Association.

Immediately to the west of these properties, across Totoket Road, are 9 Miles of trails on the Regional Water Authority land that surrounds Lake Saltonstall. Hikers wishing to explore RWA lands must acquire a permit available at www.rwater.com

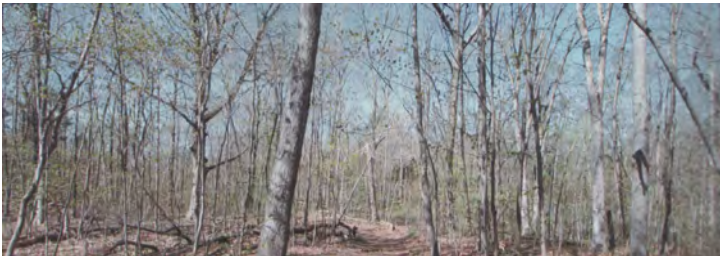


Photo by Branford Land Trust

Easy to Difficult Hike

From Laurel Hill Road, hiking options extend along Pisgah Brook in both directions or up a steep path to the expansive trail system along the ridgeline, offering a perspective from some of the highest points in Branford.

Directions and Parking:

Pisgah Brook can be best accessed via Laurel Hill Road. Follow Brushy Plain Road (Route 740) north. Approximately 1 mile north of I-95 make a right onto Laurel Hill Road. Park at the end of the paved section. To enter the preserve via Saltonstall Mountain, follow Mill Plain Road north to Twin Lakes Road. Go left onto Twin Lakes Road, left onto Summit Drive, right onto Lantern Veiv Drive. Park at end.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

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Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

Total Trails Length: approx. 6.03 miles

Red Trails: 2.85 miles

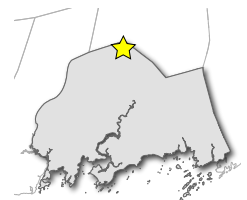
Red/White Trail: 0.26 miles

The Branford Trail: 2.92 miles

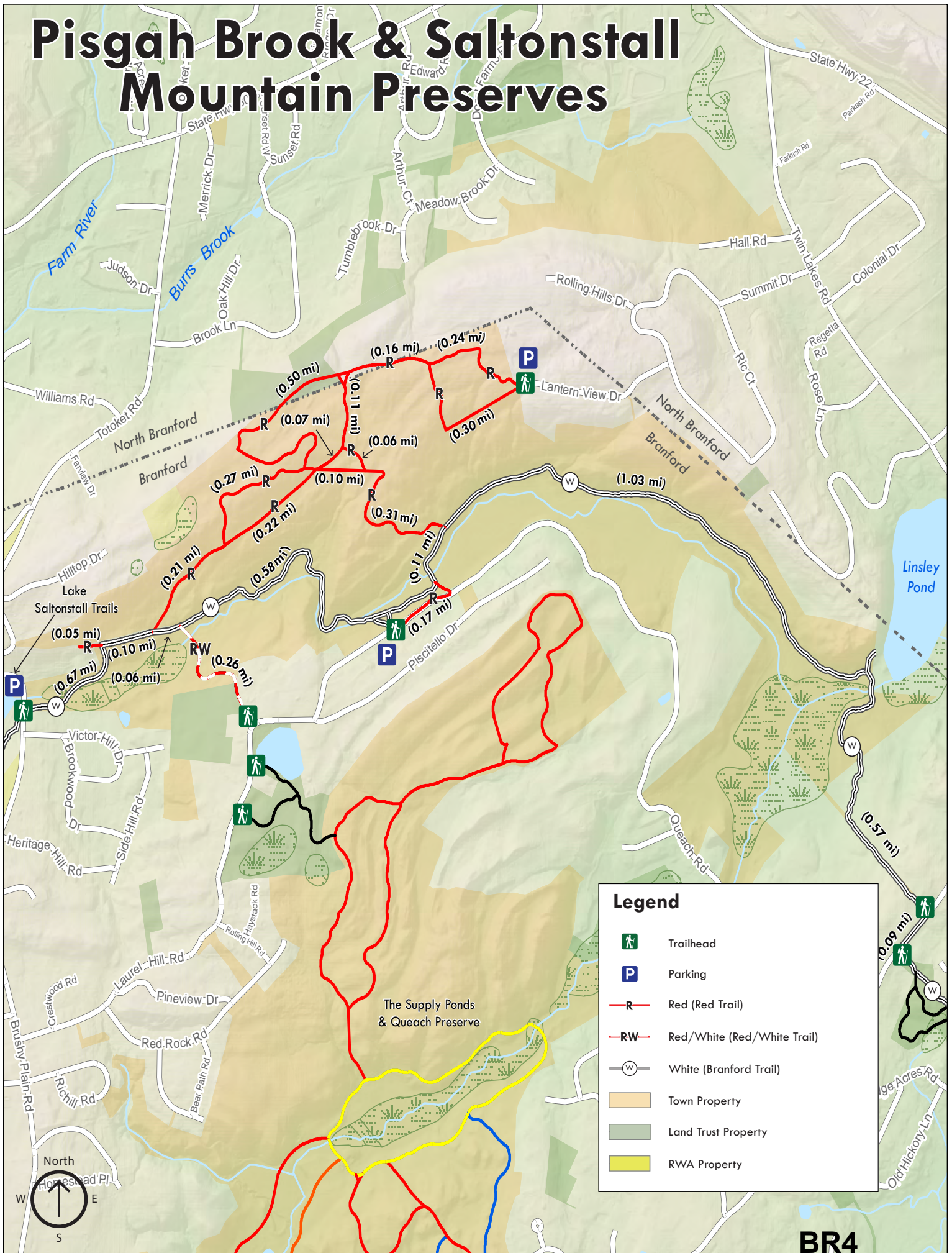


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Pisgah Brook & Saltonstall Mountain Preserves



Legend

- Trailhead
- Parking
- Red (Red Trail)
- Red/White (Red/White Trail)
- White (Branford Trail)
- Town Property
- Land Trust Property
- RWA Property

Short Beach Preserve

The Short Beach Preserve is a 40 acre parcel with rugged rock outcroppings, tall oaks, beeches, extensive groves of mountain laurel, wetlands and a magnificent bluff offering spectacular views of Talmadge Pond and Long Island Sound. The isolated trails of this little gem provide a haven of nature in a densely populated part of Branford. Throughout much of the 19th century, the property was divided into a series of small, private woodlots, thus perhaps discouraging its development. Until the 1940s, ice was harvested from Talmadge Pond (also known as Altmannsberger Pond) and shipped to New York City and beyond for refrigeration. For more than a century Talmadge Pond has also been a favorite ice-skating spot for Short Beach residents. It can now be accessed by the public via its northern side.



Photo by Branford Land Trust

In 1999, 35 acres were donated to the Branford Land Trust by the Foote Family Charitable Trust and two other donors. A 4.3 acre inholding that bisected the property and contained the Talmadge Pond bluff was later acquired for \$150,000 through the contributions of many supporters and a generous \$75,000 matching grant by the Foote Family Charitable Trust.

Be sure to visit the Short Beach Preserve in June, when blossoming mountain laurel make this area one of the most beautiful places in southern Connecticut.



Photo by Branford Land Trust

Easy Hike

Short Beach Preserve has a nice, quiet hike through Land Trust land. There are great views of Talmage Pond and Long Island Sound.

Directions and Parking:

From Shore Drive (Route 142, aka Short Beach Road), turn onto Midwood Road. Park at the end of Midwood in the cul-de-sac.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Properties are open during daylight hours plus one hour before and after. Stay on the trails and please carry out everything you carry in. Hunting or the use of BB guns and air rifles is prohibited. No open fires or camping. Motorized vehicles are strictly prohibited and violators will be prosecuted. Follow the classic counsel to leave a place or trail better than you found it.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

Total Trails Length: approx. 0.98 miles

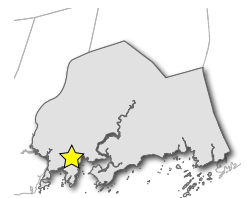
Green Trails: 0.70 miles

Blue Trails: 0.28 miles

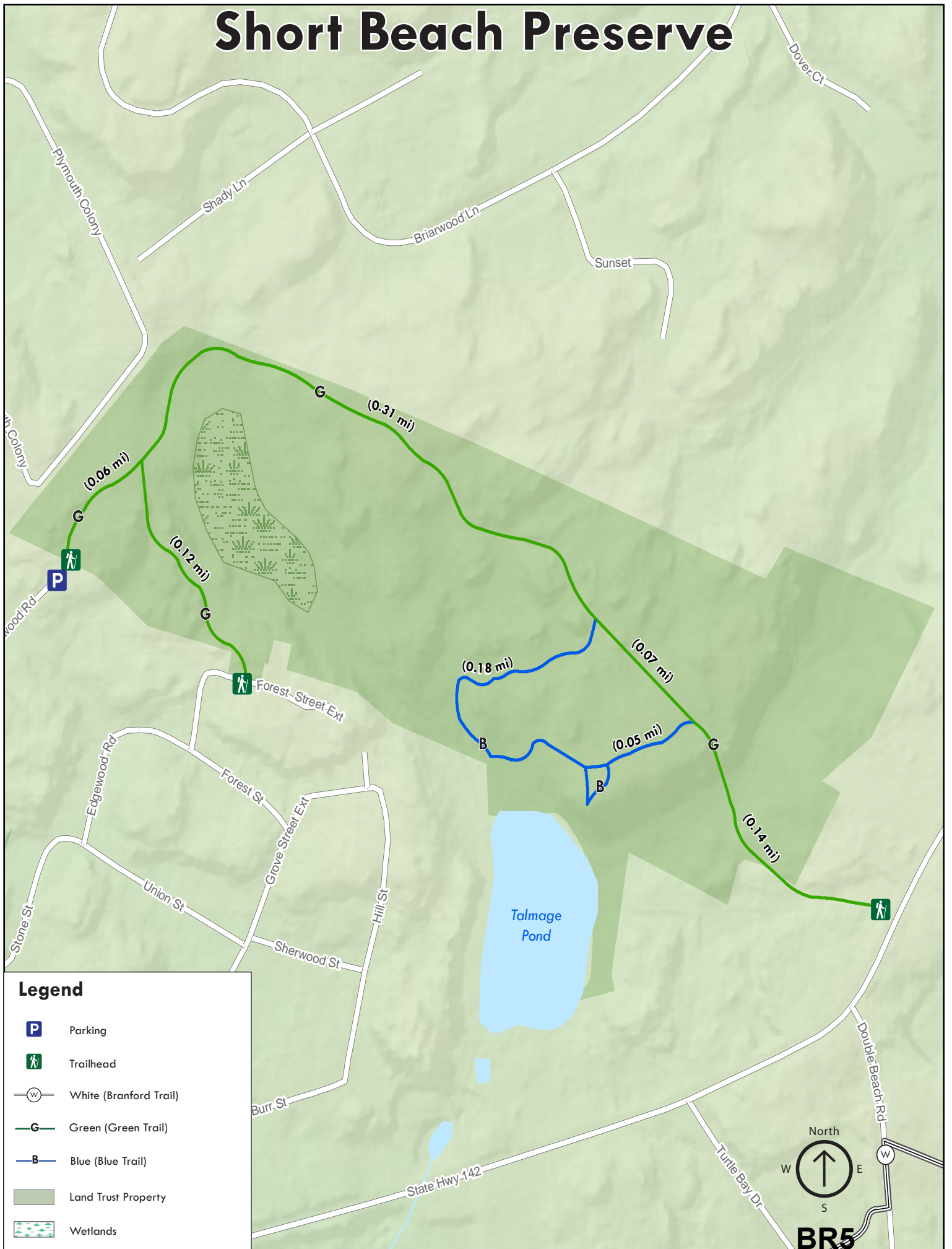


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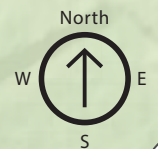


Short Beach Preserve



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- White (Branford Trail)
- Green (Green Trail)
- Blue (Blue Trail)
- Land Trust Property
- Wetlands



BR5

Stony Creek Quarry, Van Wie & Kelley Preserves

The first preserve established here was the Stony Creek Quarry. A granite quarry had operated on this site since the late 19th century but at a time in the early 1970s when the business was declining, a proposal came forth to use the site as a garbage dump. Branford Land Trust president Peter Neill, horrified by the idea, led the effort for the town to acquire the property as open space instead, leasing a 50 acre area in the center for continued quarrying operations. With help from state and federal grants, the town took title in 1977.

The Van Wie Preserve, abutting the Quarry property, came about through a series of donations to the Branford Land Trust from Ray Van Wie and his son, Bill, and daughter-in-law Alice. The Van Wie family has lived in Branford since around 1850, and Ray and Bill spent years together walking the woods, working the land, building walls around springs, thinning cedars to replant native bushes and identifying wildflowers. When Ray made the first donation in 1978, a parcel facing Flat Rock Road, he asked to name the property the Rose Van Wie Botanical Preserve in memory of his wife, who loved wildflowers. Since then, incremental gifts from Ray, Bill and Alice Van Wie have brought the preserve to more than 100 acres. Along with streams and rocks and rills, one of the highlights of this property is an open meadow, maintained by the Branford Land Trust for butterflies and other sun loving creatures.



Photo by Branford Land Trust

When the Stony Creek Quarry Preserve was created, few were aware of a 10 acre privately owned piece completely surrounded by town property. The Branford Land Trust was able to purchase this property in 1997 thanks to a generous gift from Brooks M. Kelley in memory of his son, Brooks R. Kelley, who lived for a time on Quarry Road and loved to spend time on the wooded trails with his young son.

These three preserves, combined with the Hoadley Creek Preserve create one of the wildest natural areas in Branford. Near the Quarry Road parking lot, the woods are littered with eerie remnants of the quarry days. As one continues, however, civilization recedes and visitors will be impressed by the sheer size of the preserve. Extensive wetlands and streams are interspersed with towering ridgelines, offering one of the most dramatic and secluded walks in town.

Directions and Parking:

Take Leetes Island Road (Route 146) from Stony Creek towards Guilford. Make a left on Quarry Road and park in the lot on your right just after the road becomes unpaved. Alternatively, park on Red Hill Road which is off Leetes Island Road, 0.1 mile south of I-95.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Properties are open during daylight hours plus one hour before and after. Stay on the trails and please carry out everything you carry in. Hunting or the use of BB guns and air rifles is prohibited. No open fires or camping. Motorized vehicles are strictly prohibited and violators will be prosecuted. Follow the classic counsel to leave a place or trail better than you found it.



Photo by Branford Land Trust

Moderate to Difficult Hike

The Stony Creek Quarry, Van Wie & Kelley Preserves form a contiguous total of more than 480 acres. The large size, combined with rocky ups and down and occasional piles of granite rubble, make these among the more rugged and remote of the towns walking areas.

Total Trails Length: approx. 11.31 miles

Red Trails: 0.81 miles **White Trail:** 0.53 miles

Green Trail: 2.67 miles **Orange Trail:** 0.46 miles

Yellow Trail: 0.86 miles **Blue Trail:** 0.52 miles

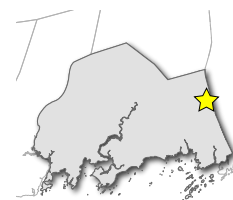
Pink Trail: 1.34 miles **The Branford Trail:** 2.10 miles

Unblazed Trails: 2.02 miles

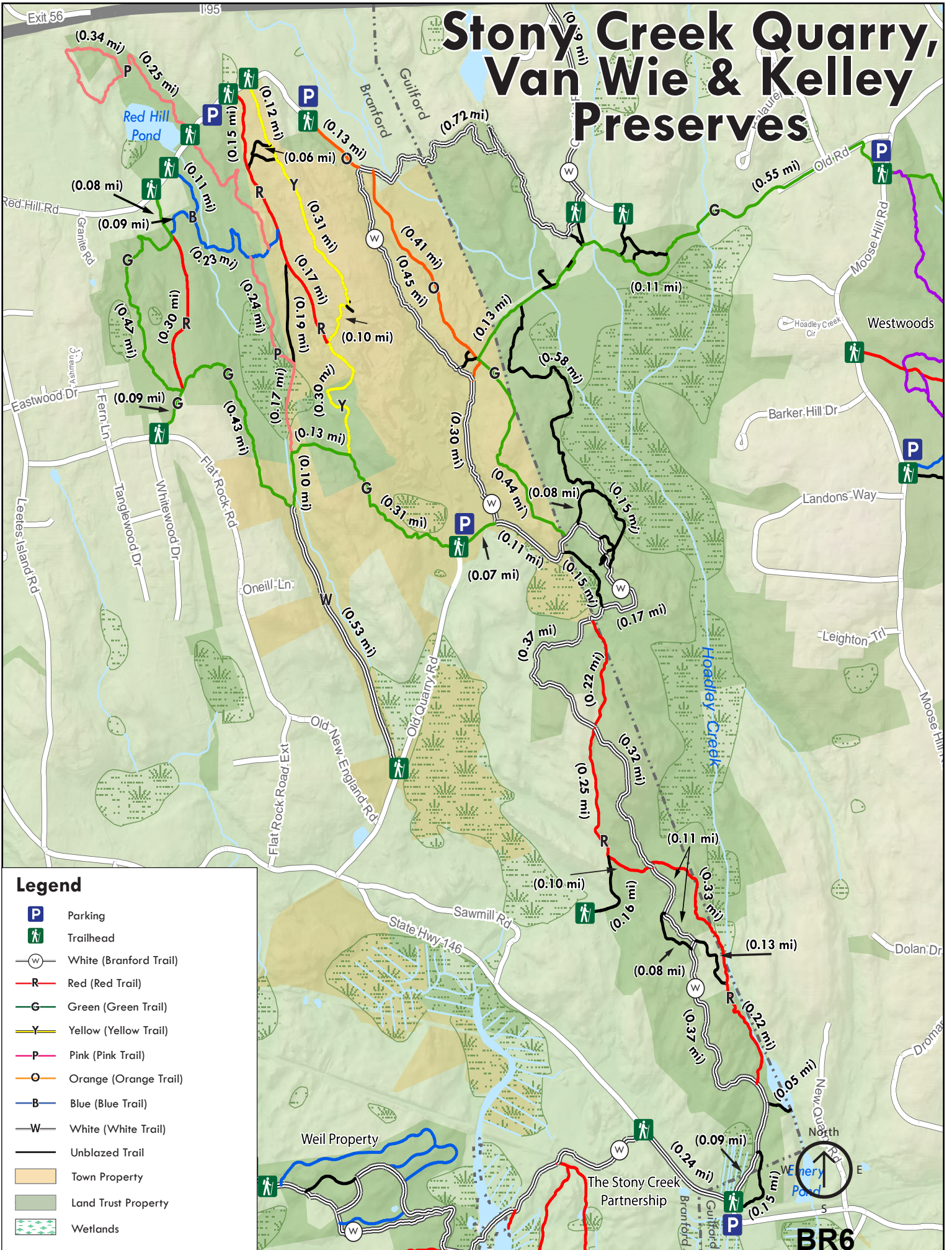


For more information about this walk contact:

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Stony Creek Quarry, Van Wie & Kelley Preserves



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- White (Branford Trail)
- Red (Red Trail)
- Green (Green Trail)
- Yellow (Yellow Trail)
- Pink (Pink Trail)
- Orange (Orange Trail)
- Blue (Blue Trail)
- White (White Trail)
- Unblazed Trail
- Town Property
- Land Trust Property
- Wetlands

BR6

The Stony Creek Partnership, Washburn Preserve & Weil Property

On the waterfront part of this preserve, the landscape and topography have been indelibly defined by 19th century quarrying operations and subsequent construction of the shoreline trolley line. The hole where granite was wrested from the ground has filled with water and now forms a hidden pond. Some of the interlaced trails cross over helter-skelter piles of jagged rock rubble, and two of the flat trails that border the salt marsh are the remains respectively of a quarry railroad bed and the trolley line. Now, nature is reclaiming these past works of man. Drought-tolerant black birch and pitch pines have found footholds among the higher rubble and diverse salt marsh plants flourish in and along the old rail beds. Red foxes are frequently seen here, probably finding excellent den sites among the loose rocks.

In 1963, this property was bought by Albert Lincoln Washburn, a professor of arctic geology at Yale University and a member of the 1935 Winter U.S. Olympic Team. For years, Stony Creek residents had enjoyed walking the property, so when Washburn decided to sell it in 1976, "Creekers" prevailed upon him, successfully, instead to donate 18.5 acres to the Branford Land Trust. The donation came about with assistance of The Nature Conservancy.

In 1992, the preserve was expanded to the north and the west when an abutting 20 acre property came up for foreclosure. Alarmed at the prospect of intensive development, neighbors formed the Stony Creek Limited Partnership, which bought the property at foreclosure. To recoup costs, an existing house and one four acre house lot were sold, while the remaining 9 acres were donated to the Branford Land Trust. A field that had been cleared by the previous owner for a horse corral is kept open to provide botanical diversity as well as habitat for the eastern bluebird. Look for this sensationally beautiful species in the spring, when they might be setting up house in nesting boxes maintained by the Branford Land Trust.

As if all this weren't enough, the main trail continues east across the salt marsh to an enchanting rocky knoll that is part of the preserve. The trail then crosses Jarvis Creek to a 17 acre natural area owned by Yale University Peabody Museum.



Photo by Branford Land Trust

Directions and Parking:

From the center of Stony Creek (the beach and the church), take Thimble Island Road south about 1/2 mile to the second entrance to Wallace Road. Park on Thimble Islands Road; walk onto Wallace Road, but immediately bear right onto a paved private road. After a few hundred yards, follow the first driveway on the left and you will immediately come to the trail entrance on the right.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Properties are open during daylight hours plus one hour before and after. Stay on the trails and please carry out everything you carry in. Hunting or the use of BB guns and air rifles is prohibited. No open fires or camping. Motorized vehicles are strictly prohibited and violators will be prosecuted. Follow the classic counsel to leave a place or trail better than you found it.



Photo by Branford Land Trust

Easy Hike

The three trail systems in Stony Creek are great hikes combined or done individually. The Branford Trail connects them and can also be continued on.

Total Trails Length: approx. 3.46 miles

Red Trails: 1.15 miles

White Trail: 0.34 miles

Blue Trails: 0.80 miles

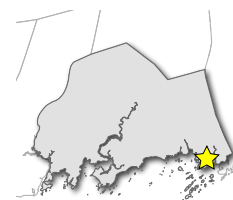
The Branford Trail: 1.06 miles

Unblazed Trail: 0.10 miles



For more information about this walk contact:

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Stony Creek Partnership, Washburn Preserve & Weil Property

The Stony
Creek Preserve



Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  White (Branford Trail)
-  Red (Red Trail)
-  Blue (Blue Trail)
-  White (White Trail)
-  Unblazed Trail
-  Town Property
-  Land Trust Property
-  Wetlands



BR7

The Supply Ponds & Queach Preserves

The Supply Ponds Preserve is the oldest open space recreation area in Branford and the Queach Preserve is the newest. These two properties, when combined with the town's Pisgah Brook Preserve and Saltonstall Mountain Preserve, comprise more than 800 acres of contiguous open space protecting much of the watershed of the Branford River. The many trails that cover these two properties are favorites among birding, hiking and mountain biking enthusiasts. The ponds are also popular among local fishermen.

The ponds were created in the late 19th century, when Queach Brook was dammed by the New Haven Water Company to create a water supply source. They were taken out of use in 1932 after Lake Gaillard was created in North Branford, but the property remained in the hands of the water company until 1969, when it was bought by the town for open space. This was Branford's first open space acquisition!

The Queach property was acquired in 2006. After a decade of contentious opposition to a proposed development, generous contributions from the Branford Land Trust and the Prizker-Schwartz-Vlock family foundation enabled the town to offer the owner an acceptable price and to acquire the most sensitive 150 acres of the property.

A new feature of the Supply Ponds Preserve is a fish ladder, installed in 2005 by the Branford Land Trust alongside the 17 foot dam that created the ponds. Funded by a wide variety of private and government sources, the fishway allows anadromous fish, species who live in saltwater but reproduce in freshwater, to reach the productive spawning habitat provided by the quiet water of the ponds and Queach Brook. Be sure to visit the fishway on your next trip to the Supply Ponds and in April, look for the migrating river herring.

Around the ponds are the many remnants of human activity. Some, like cellar holes and escaped ornamental plantings, are easily discerned; other, like sugar maples planted side by side in honor of a marriage, less so. Two Branford residents, Jane Peterson Bouley and Jane Dougherty, elucidate these remains in a fascinating history of the Supply Pond Property. *The Supply Pond* may be purchased at either of the town libraries.



Photo by Branford Land Trust

Easy Hike

The hike around the Supply Ponds is an easy walk. It can be extended into the Queach Preserve. The area attracts different types of birds to the ponds to be watched from the shore.

Directions and Parking:

From Route 1 take either Mill Plain Road to Short Rocks Road or Chestnut Street north to the main parking area. There are plenty of places to park along North Chestnut St and Short Rock Road.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Properties are open during daylight hours plus one hour before and after. Stay on the trails and please carry out everything you carry in. Hunting or the use of BB guns and air rifles is prohibited. No open fires or camping. Motorized vehicles are strictly prohibited and violators will be prosecuted. Follow the classic counsel to leave a place or trail better than you found it.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

Total Trails Length: approx. 7.27 miles

Blue Trails: 0.89 miles

Red Trails: 3.59 miles

Green Trail: 0.82 miles

Yellow Trail: 1.10 miles

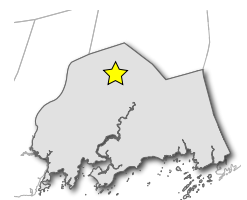
Orange Trail: 0.47 miles

Unblazed Trail: 0.40 miles

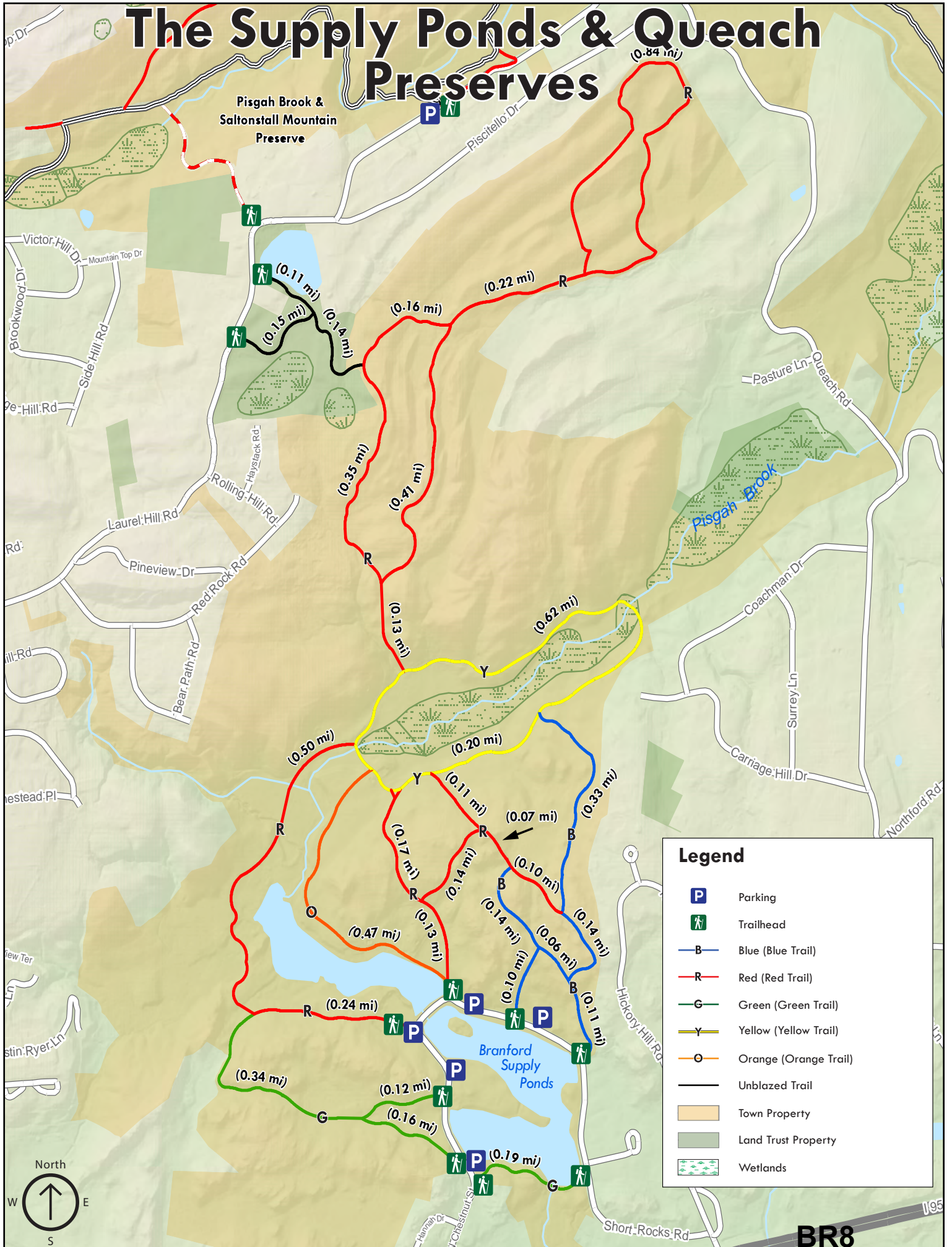


For more information about this walk contact:

Branford Land Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 254, Branford, CT 06405
(203) 393-2100 ext:127



The Supply Ponds & Queach Preserves



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- Blue (Blue Trail)
- Red (Red Trail)
- Green (Green Trail)
- Yellow (Yellow Trail)
- Orange (Orange Trail)
- Unblazed Trail
- Town Property
- Land Trust Property
- Wetlands



Trolley Trail, Goss & Vedder

Throughout the first half of the 20th century, the trolley was a dominant form of transportation along the shoreline. As the automobile gained dominance after World War II, the trolley was discontinued and its rails dismantled, but in many places the physical rail bed remained. In the early 1970s, David Anderson of the Branford Land Trust conceived the idea of a trail through the salt marsh and oversaw its construction with help from Boy Scout Troop 422 and the New Haven Trap Rock Co. (now Tilcon). The Trolley Trail has long been a favorite among Branford residents, offering an intimate view of the tidal wetlands and a chance to observe osprey nesting on one of the many platforms established by the Branford Land Trust.

The Trolley Trail is complimented by the Goss Preserve in Pine Orchard and the Vedder Preserve along Pleasant Point Road. The 15 acre wooded Goss Preserve was donated to the Branford Land Trust in phases in 1983 and 1986 by Nancy B. Goss, a longtime Pine Orchard resident. A short trail with gentle ups and downs encircles the property.

The 27 acre Vedder Preserve was donated in 1980. No one should miss the climb to the Vedder monument, with its remarkable views of Long Island Sound, the salt marsh, The Trolley Trail and the Thimble Islands. There is also a plaque that tells the moving story of the donor, Jennie Vedder.

Vedder grew up in Pleasant Point, where her father earned a modest living building and repairing boats. Jennie taught school in Branford and then moved to Greenwich Village, where she worked for the American News Company and attended night school at New York University. She made frequent weekend trips back to Branford, never losing her love of the place where she grew up. Whenever a piece of land on Pleasant Point came up for sale, she found a way to buy it, once even borrowing from her boss to do so. In 1963 Vedder retired and moved back to Branford, where her closest relatives were surprised to learn she harbored a secret love for writing poetry. Vedder could have sold all of the land she accumulated and lived a lavish life, but instead she chose a lifestyle similar to her modest upbringing. In 1980, she deeded 27 acres, nearly all she had accumulated, to the Branford Land Trust. She died in 1981 at age 90. A book of her poetry is available at both Branford libraries.



Photo by Branford Land Trust

Directions and Parking:

Park at the end of Tilcon Road off of Totoket Road. This is also the parking area for the Goss Preserve. Alternatively, follow Thimble Island Road into Stony Creek and make a right onto West Point Road, just past the railroad underpass. Park by the ball field.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Properties are open during daylight hours plus one hour before and after. Stay on the trails and please carry out everything you carry in. Hunting or the use of BB guns and air rifles is prohibited. No open fires or camping. Motorized vehicles are strictly prohibited and violators will be prosecuted. Follow the classic counsel to leave a place or trail better than you found it.

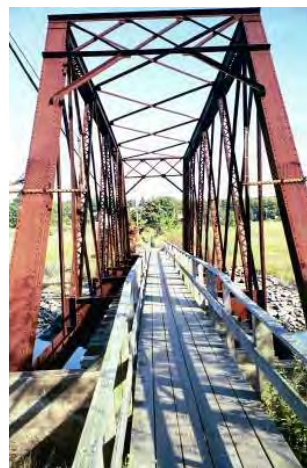


Photo by CT DEEP

Easy Hike

The Trolley Trail is a nice hike through the salt marshes of Branford. The Goss Preserve, Vedder Preserve and the Branford Trail can be easily added onto a hike for a longer walk. Please note: At the Pine Orchard end of the Trolley Trail, it is necessary to cross the privately owned Tilcon railroad. Trains do use this railroad! Please remember to stop, look and listen before crossing.

Total Trails Length: approx. 2.27 miles

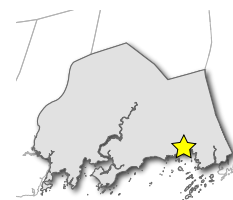
Red Trails: 1.53 miles

The Branford Trail: 0.74 miles

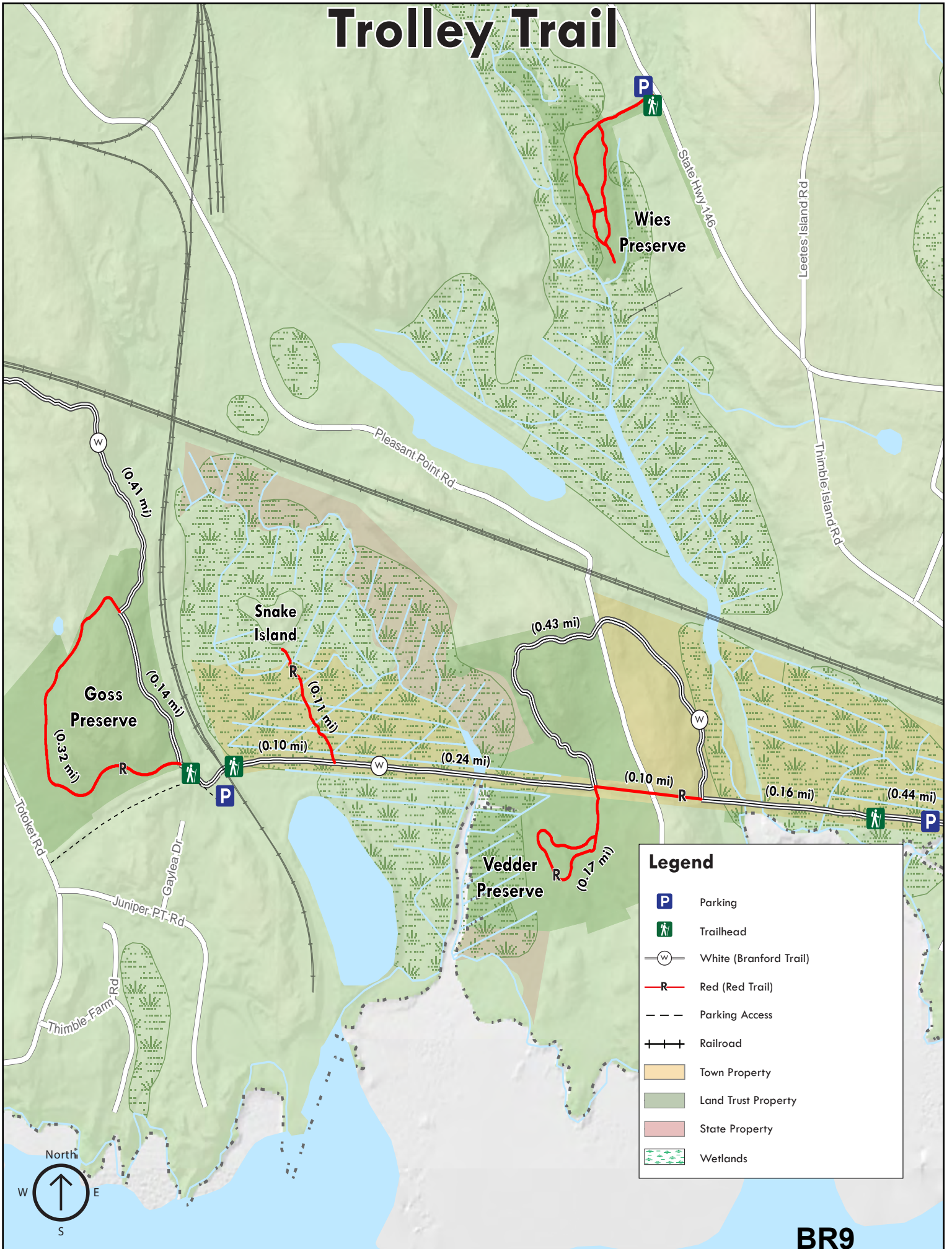


For more information about this walk contact:

Branford Land Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 254, Branford, CT 06405
(203) 393-2100 ext:127



Trolley Trail



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- White (Branford Trail)
- Red (Red Trail)
- Parking Access
- Railroad
- Town Property
- Land Trust Property
- State Property
- Wetlands



The Wies Preserve

Vivian N. Wies gave the Land Trust her beloved “Meadow Island,” an 11 acre gem of upland and salt marsh, in 1998. The trail which runs around the perimeter of the island is easy going and offers one of the most intimate walking experiences in Branford.



Photo by Branford Land Trust

The property is an oval “island” in a tidal wetland. Access from the road is over a grass covered berm lined by a freshwater wetland where skunk cabbage sprouts in the spring. Phragmites, winterberry and cedar also line this access path. On the island itself, the flora changes dramatically in response to the dry, rocky soil, consisting mainly of oaks, pitch pine, mountain laurel, blueberry and shadbush. The shadbush, also known as Juneberry, offers a special treat when its white flowers briefly appear in late April. These two common names are fitting, since the flowers bloom when the shad are running in the rivers and the berries appear in June. Vivian Wies especially treasured this land for its profusion of flowering lady slippers in mid-May, but their numbers are now declining for unknown reasons. These plants should not be disturbed in any way. A series of exposed granite ledges that overlook wetlands, the narrow Pine Creek and distant upland areas that adjoin Pleasant Point Road are found on the island’s west side.

On the southern tip of the island, a spur trail takes you to the edge of the salt marsh. Near some old dock pilings are mudbanks that are covered with fiddler crabs during the warm months. If you approach too loudly, they’ll all scurry down into their holes. All year, masses of mussels can be seen along the river banks. Osprey, turkey vultures, belted kingfisher, herons, egrets, mallard and deer all frequent the area in and around this small and secluded haven.



Photo by Peter Marteka of the Hartford Courant

Directions and Parking:

The Wies Preserve is located on Stony Creek Road (Route 146) about 0.2 miles west of the intersection of Stony Creek Road and Leetes Island Road. Look for a small grass pull-off and a Branford Land Trust trailhead marker across from a yellow hydrant.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Properties are open during daylight hours plus one hour before and after. Stay on the trails and please carry out everything you carry in. Hunting or the use of BB guns and air rifles is prohibited. No open fires or camping. Motorized vehicles are strictly prohibited and violators will be prosecuted. Follow the classic counsel to leave a place or trail better than you found it.



Photo by Peter Marteka of the Hartford Courant

Easy Hike

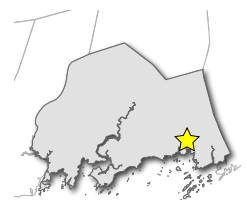
The Wies Preserve has a short walk around a beautiful preserve. There are many opportunities to see different types of flora and fauna. The short hike also gives views of the completely surrounding salt marshes on every side of this property except the route leading in. From the “Meadow island” there will be several chances to view many different species of wildlife that inhabit the area.

Total Trails Length: approx. 0.30 miles

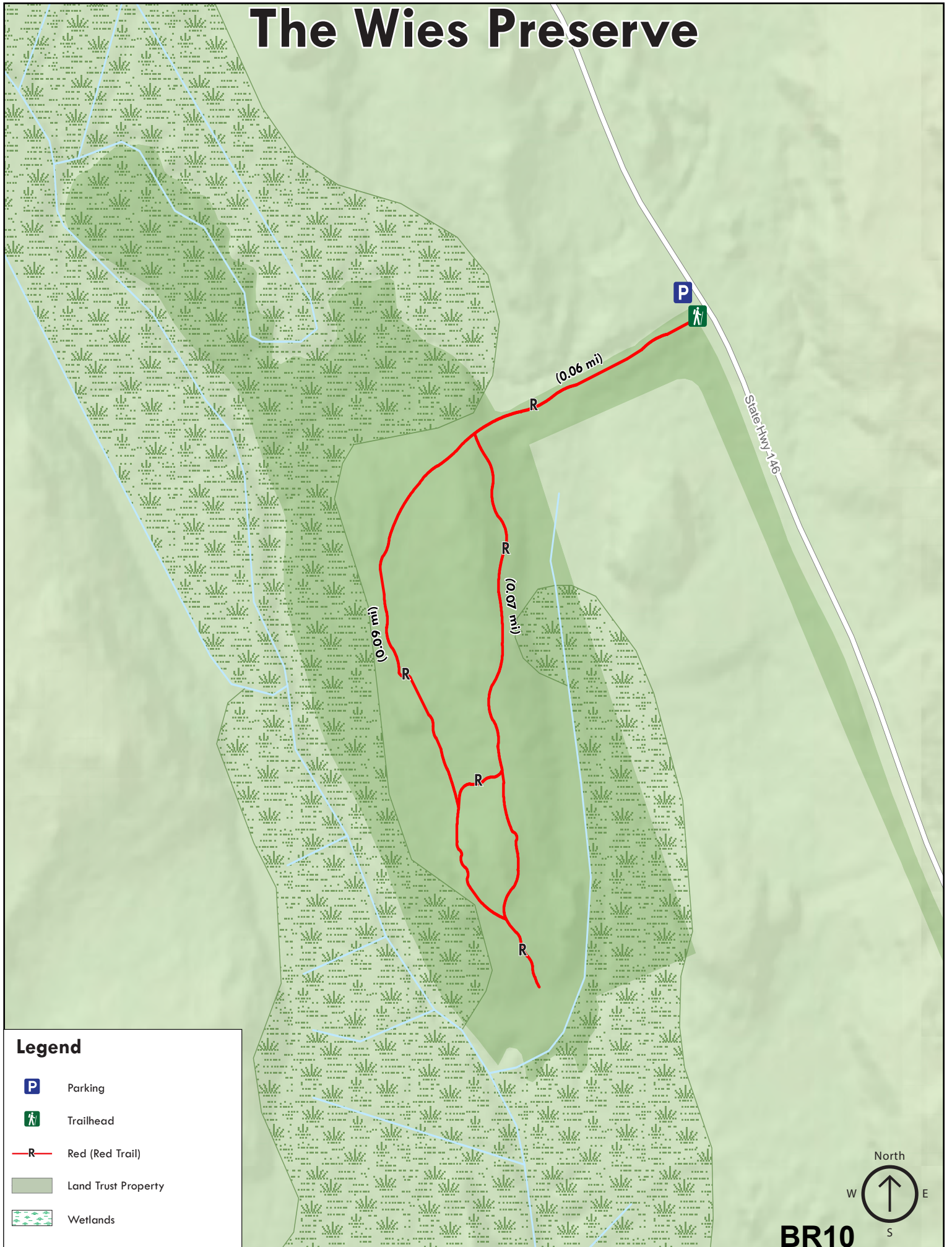


For more information about this walk contact:

Branford Land Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 254, Branford, CT 06405
(203) 393-2100 ext:127

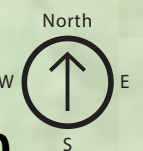


The Wies Preserve



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- Red (Red Trail)
- Land Trust Property
- Wetlands



BR10

Young's Pond & Bob's Woods

Alden M. Young of Waterbury, a backer of the shoreline trolley system, was also the primary developer of the Pine Orchard neighborhood as a summer colony in the early 20th century. In 1971, the company that he founded gave much of his estate to the Town to create Young's Pond Park. The park contains a small pond (popular for ice skating), woods, and a baseball field. Old carriage roads and vigorous stands of planted rhododendrons are among the remnants of the estate that give this property a distinctive feeling of a bygone era. In contrast to these reminders of human activity, deed restrictions explicitly forbid additional manmade structures, even benches.



Photo by Branford Land Trust

In 2004, a for sale sign appeared at the southern end of the pond; land that many had thought to be part of the park was actually privately owned. Park lovers were distressed, but the day was saved by the Pritzker-Schwartz-Vlock family foundation, which bought the property and donated it to the Branford Land Trust. The parcel was named Bob's Woods in honor of Robert A. Pritzker, the father of one of the foundation members.



Photo by Branford Land Trust

Directions and Parking:

Young's Pond and Bob's Woods are located off of Route 146 across from the Pine Orchard Golf Course. There is a parking lot with plenty of parking.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Properties are open during daylight hours plus one hour before and after. Stay on the trails and please carry out everything you carry in. Hunting or the use of BB guns and air rifles is prohibited. No open fires or camping. Motorized vehicles are strictly prohibited and violators will be prosecuted. Follow the classic counsel to leave a place or trail better than you found it.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

Easy Hike

Young's Pond Park and Bob's Woods is great for leisurely walks with great views of Young's Pond. There is also access from these trails to The Branford Trail that grants access to other Land Trust trails further more challenging hikes for those who desire the extra distance.

Total Trails Length: approx. 2.01 miles

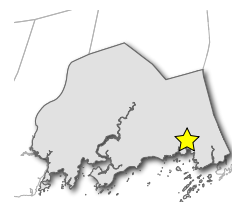
Red Trails: 1.40 miles

The Branford Trail: 0.61 miles

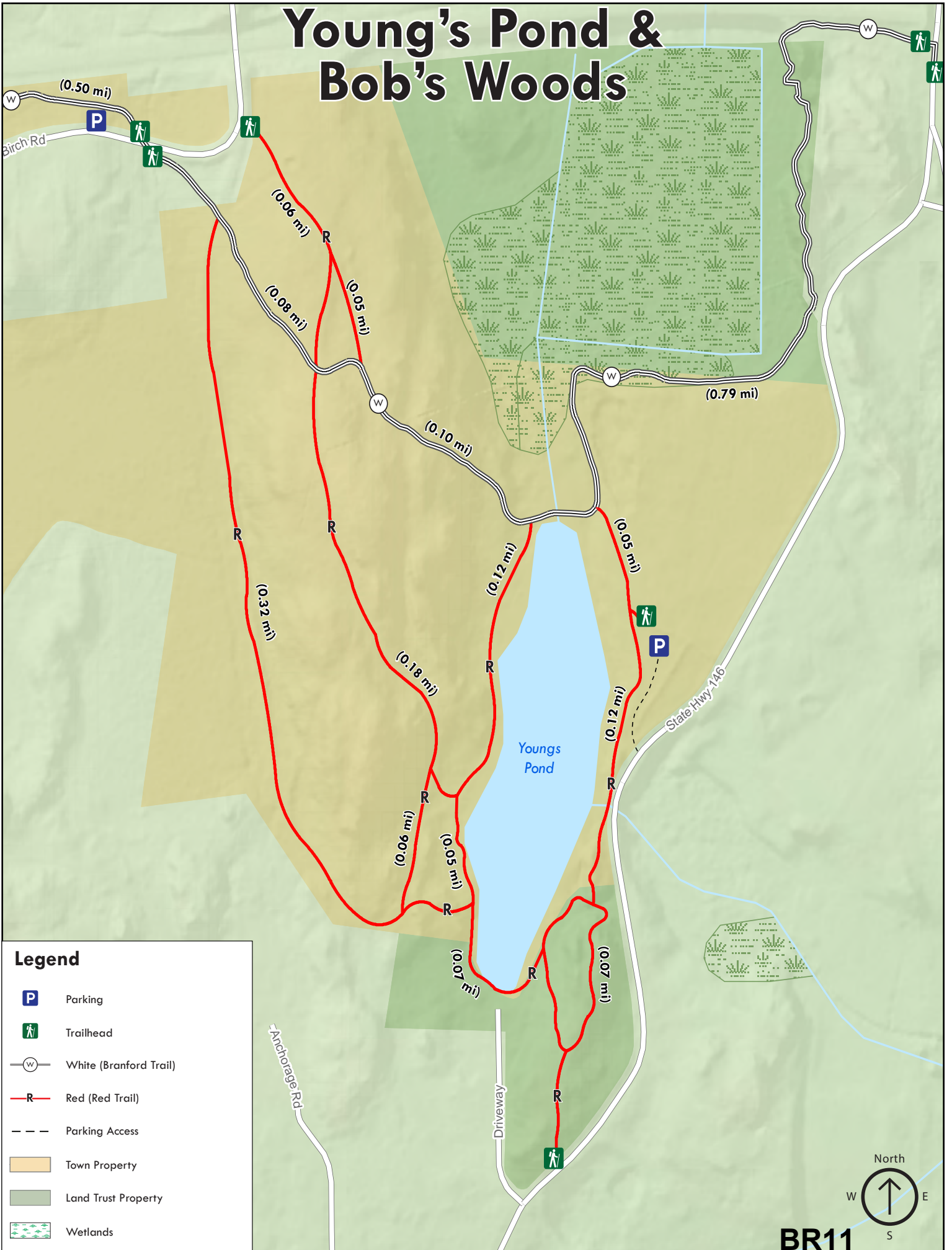


For more information about this walk contact:

Branford Land Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 254, Branford, CT 06405
(203) 393-2100 ext:127



Young's Pond & Bob's Woods



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- White (Branford Trail)
- Red (Red Trail)
- Parking Access
- Town Property
- Land Trust Property
- Wetlands

BR11

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

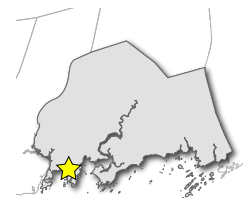
A special feature of this section of the Branford Trail is the Beacon Hill Lookout. Years of excavation have created a spectacular vantage point for viewing New Haven to the West and Long Island Sound. There is a particularly good view of the East Haven Trolley line.

Total trail length is approx. 5.0 miles

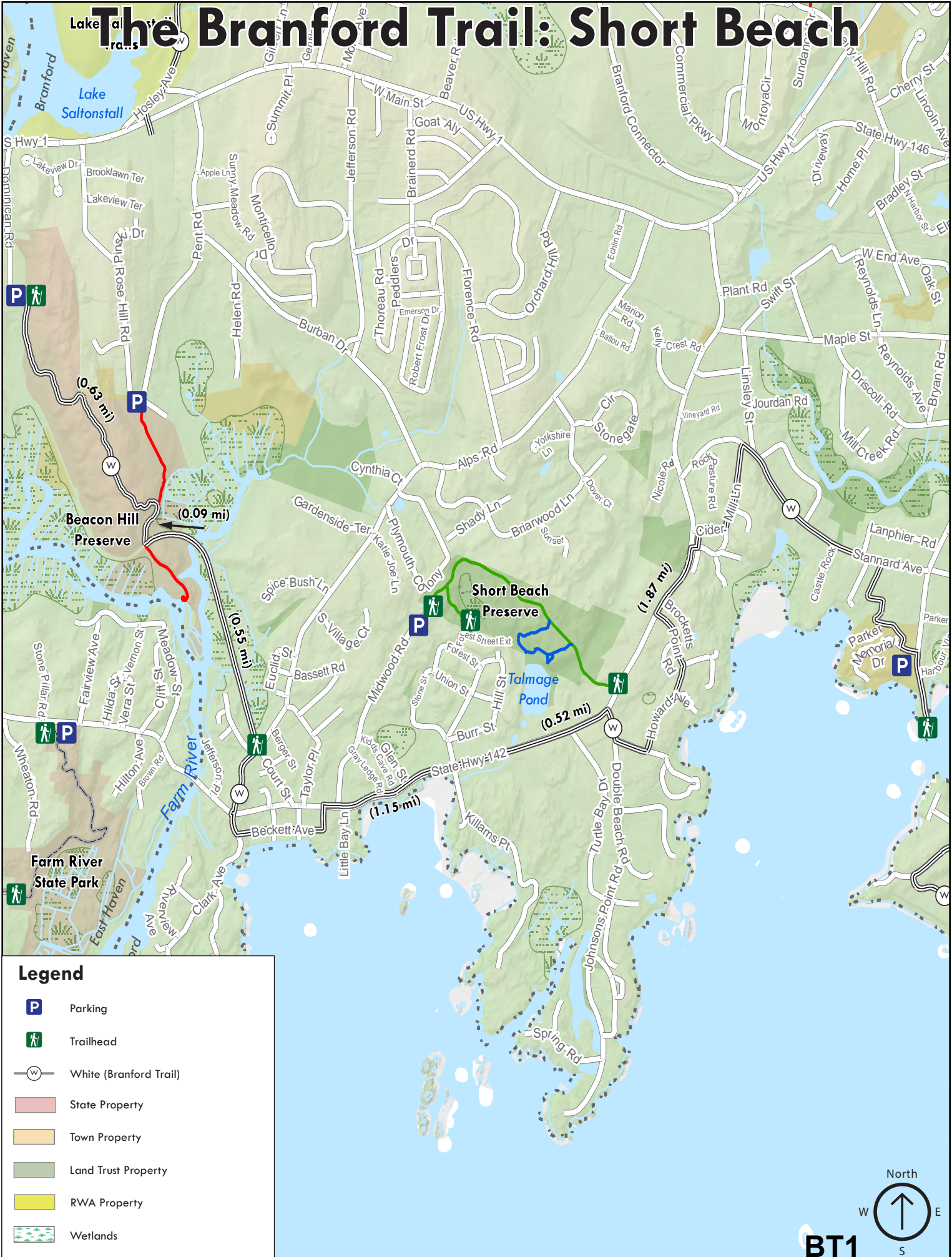


For more information about this walk contact:









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

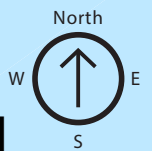


The Branford Trail: Short Beach



Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  White (Branford Trail)
-  State Property
-  Town Property
-  Land Trust Property
-  RWA Property
-  Wetlands



BT1

The Branford Trail: Indian Neck

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. The Branford Trails Program exists due to the efforts of Chet Blomquist, a retired physical education teacher who felt the need to remain physically fit and socially active. A group formed that began walking pieces of open space identified by the Branford Land Trust. Many trails were on the town perimeter that Chet felt could easily link together to create a town trail. Chet, in coordination with the Town, the Land Trust, and private land owners, was able to link the trails to make the Branford Trail a reality.

This 3.90 mile section of the Branford Trail features the Indian Neck area of Branford. This area is thought to have been a seasonal home to the Quinnipiac Indian tribe. The trail starts facing the Branford Harbor on Riverside Terrace. Before you set out, look across the harbor to Branford Point. That is where the Branford Trail ends. To start, follow the white circle blaze on roads adjacent to Pawson Park. At Linden Avenue turn left along the shoreline and take the stairs to the beach. If it's high tide, stay on the roads. When you reach Rte 146, continue to Waverly Park Rd. Near the end of this road, there is an alternate route marked by a white circle with a red dot. This should be avoided in wet weather as the rocks may be slippery. At the end of Waverly Park Road, enter the woods and follow the white blazes to end at Pine Orchard Road.



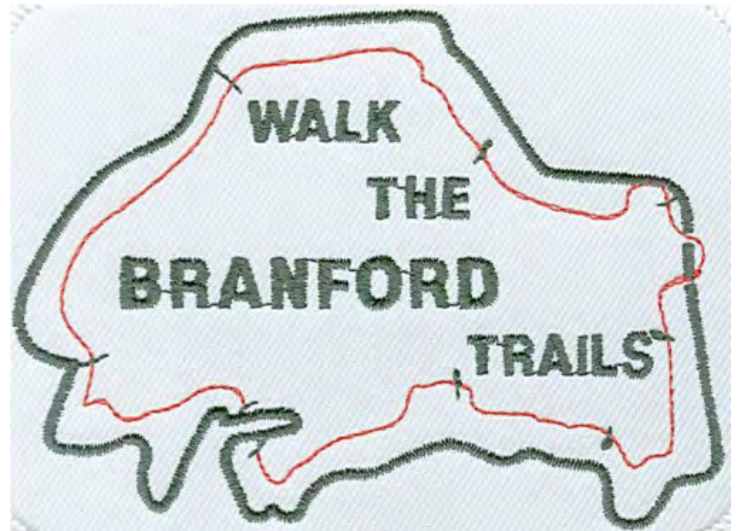
Photo by Chet Bloomquist

Directions and Parking:

The Indian Neck area of Branford can be reached via I-95 (Exit 53) to West Main/South Main/Montowese Street (Route 146). The park can be reached by taking Linden Avenue to Pawson Park Road. At the beginning of the trail there is limited on street parking.

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

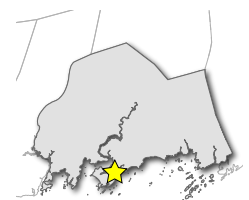
"Perambulate the Boundary" is a fitness and nature program presented twice a year (fall and spring). Participants walk all eight sections of the trail (each about 4 miles) over an eight week period. Upon completion, participants are awarded a "Walk the Branford Trails" patch. Of course, anyone is welcome to walk any section of the trail at any time.

Total trails length is approx. 3.90 miles



For more information about this walk contact:

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



The Branford Trail: Indian Neck



The Branford Trail: Pine Orchard

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 directions.

This 2.62 mile section of the Branford Trail features the Pine Orchard area of Branford. This area was permanently settled in the 1800s. Pine Orchard comprises several cottage colonies, some handsome estates, summer hotels, and the eighteen-hole course of the Pine Orchard Golf Club.

The trail passes behind the Pine Orchard Association building on Pine Orchard Road and travels through Young's Pond Park. In the park, there are several small loop trails that take you through the park and around Young's Pond. At Blackstone Avenue, the trail climbs a ridge to the left with good views and then descends to travel north along the base of a cliff. You can avoid this ascent and descent by staying on Blackstone Ave and rejoining the Branford Trail just before the railroad bridge.

The trail crosses the Tilcon freight train line that carries trap rock stone from the quarry in North Branford to the Tilcon dock where barges are loaded with the stone. From the Tilcon line, the trail follows the old trolley line to Stony Creek. An unblazed side path can be taken to Snake Island. The blazed trail loops up through the Vedder Property which takes you passed the Vedder Monument, across Pleasant Point Road, and then down again to the old trolley line.



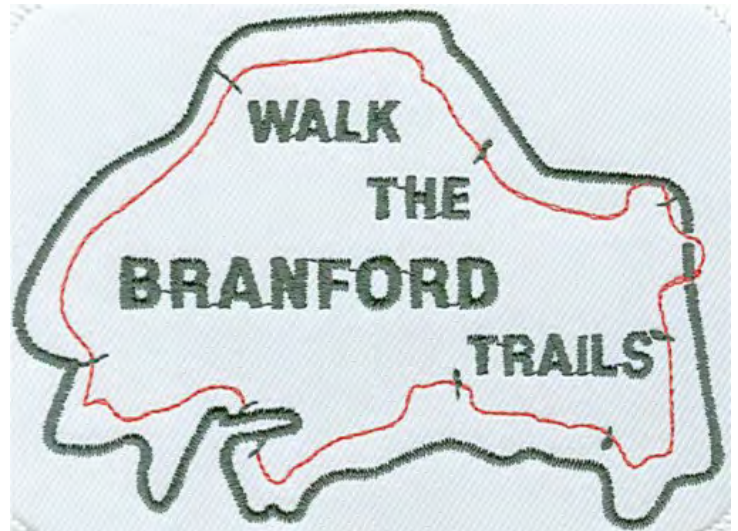
Photo by CT Department of Environmental Protection

Directions and Parking:

Parking for this portion of the Branford Trail can be found along the access road to the Pine Orchard Pet Lodge or at the Pine Orchard Association building. This area is best reached via I-95 to Montowese Street (Route 146) to Pine Orchard 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 Hike

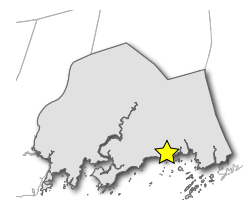
This section of the Branford Trail also includes the Branford Trolley Trail. This trail is a 480 foot long by 4 foot wide footbridge along the path of an abandoned historic trolley track. The bridge connects to a popular existing nature walk. Visitors to the Branford trolley track footbridge can expect to see numerous shorebirds in the tidal estuary, feeding in the marsh or wading in the shallow waters of the tidal creek.

Total trails length is approx. 2.62 miles

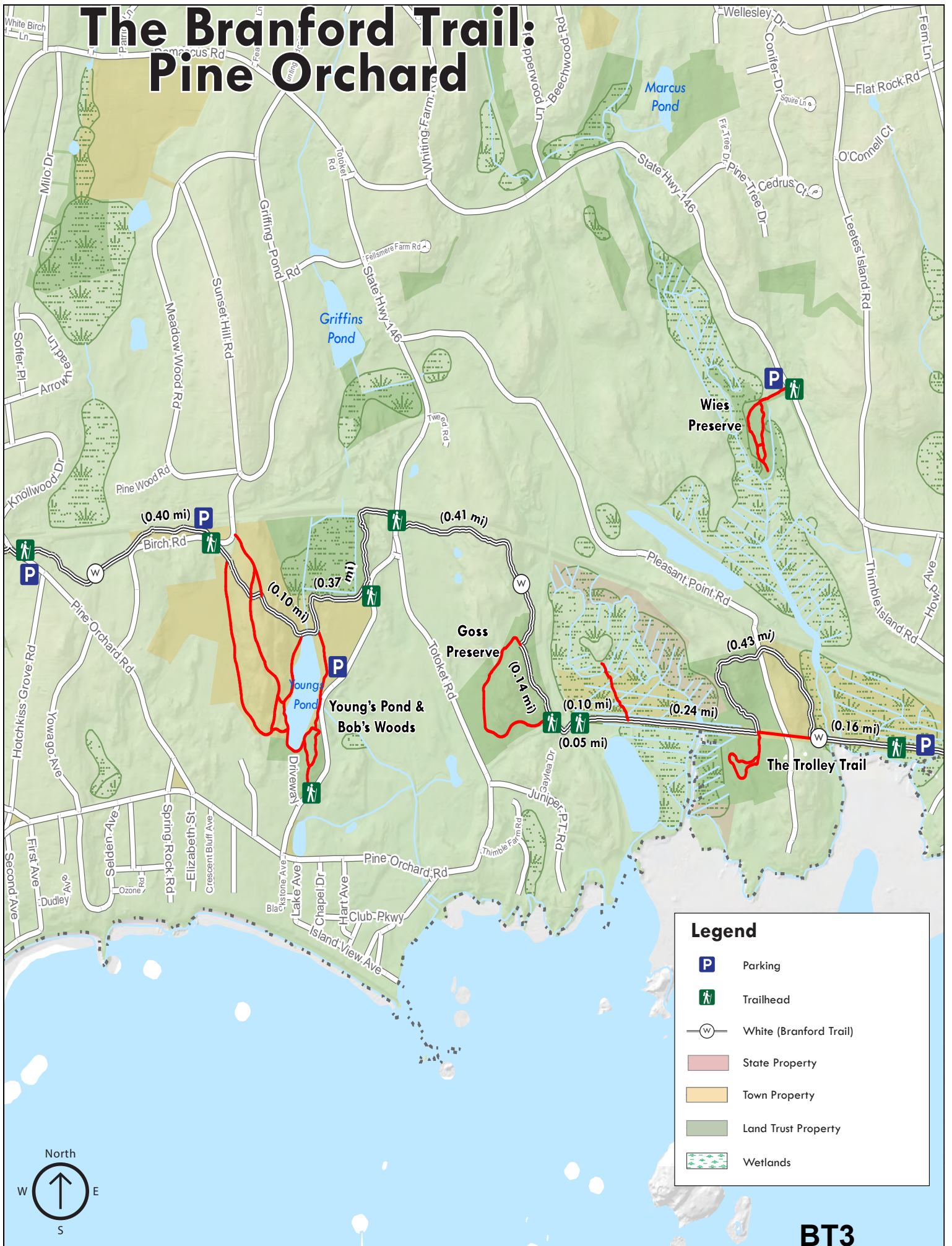


For more information about this walk contact:








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



The Branford Trail: Pine Orchard



Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  White (Branford Trail)
-  State Property
-  Town Property
-  Land Trust Property
-  Wetlands

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.



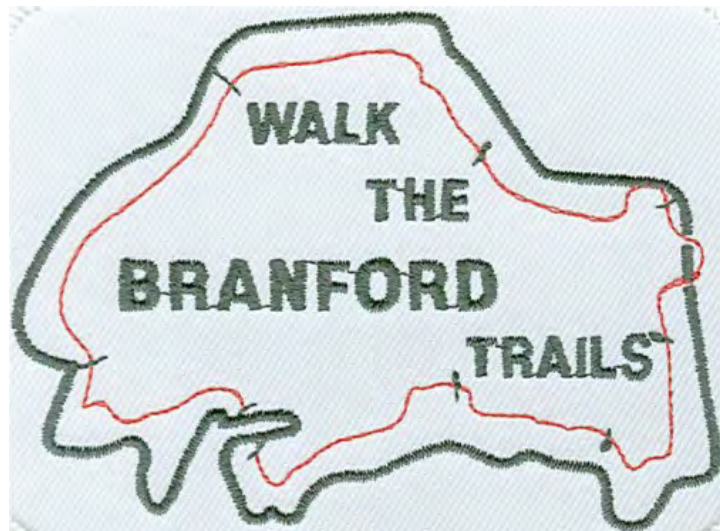
Photo from SCRCOG Archives

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

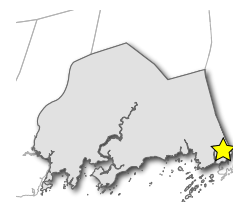
The Thimble Islands, named for the thimbleberry, a relative of the black raspberry, are an archipelago of small islands off the coast of Branford's Stony Creek area. They were known to the Mattabeset Indians as "the beautiful sea rocks" and they consist of a jumble of granite rocks, ledges, and outcroppings 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:

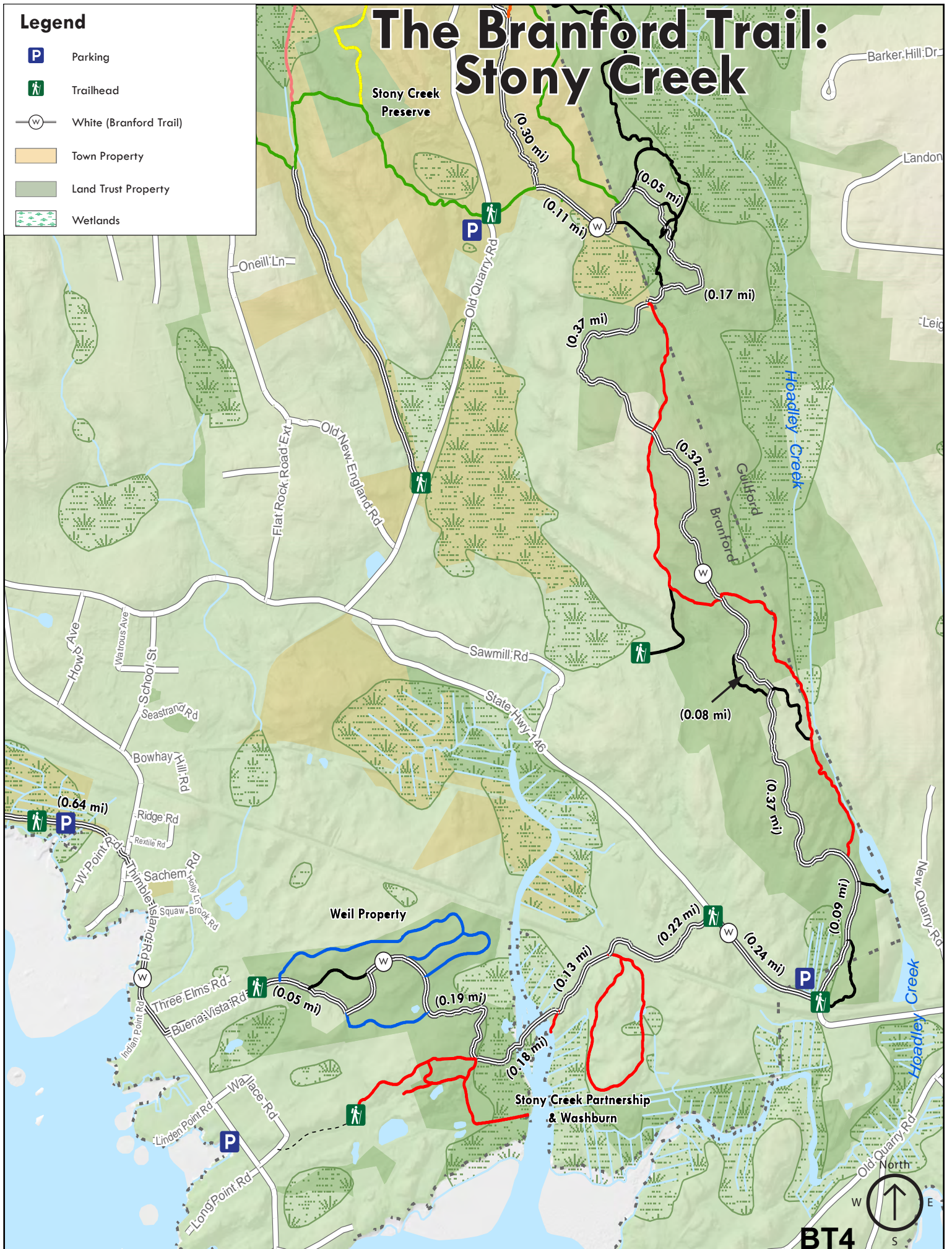
Town of Branford
Parks and open Space Authority
(203) 488-8394 ext:120



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- White (Branford Trail)
- Town Property
- Land Trust Property
- Wetlands

The Branford Trail: Stony Creek



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

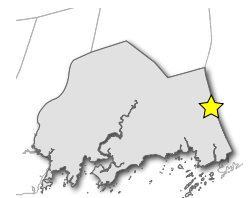
Quarrying of famous Stony Creek granite originated in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The quarry has been in continuous operation since before the Civil War, and its Stony Creek panels formed the base of the Statue of Liberty, Grand Central Terminal in New York, the cladding for the Brooklyn 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

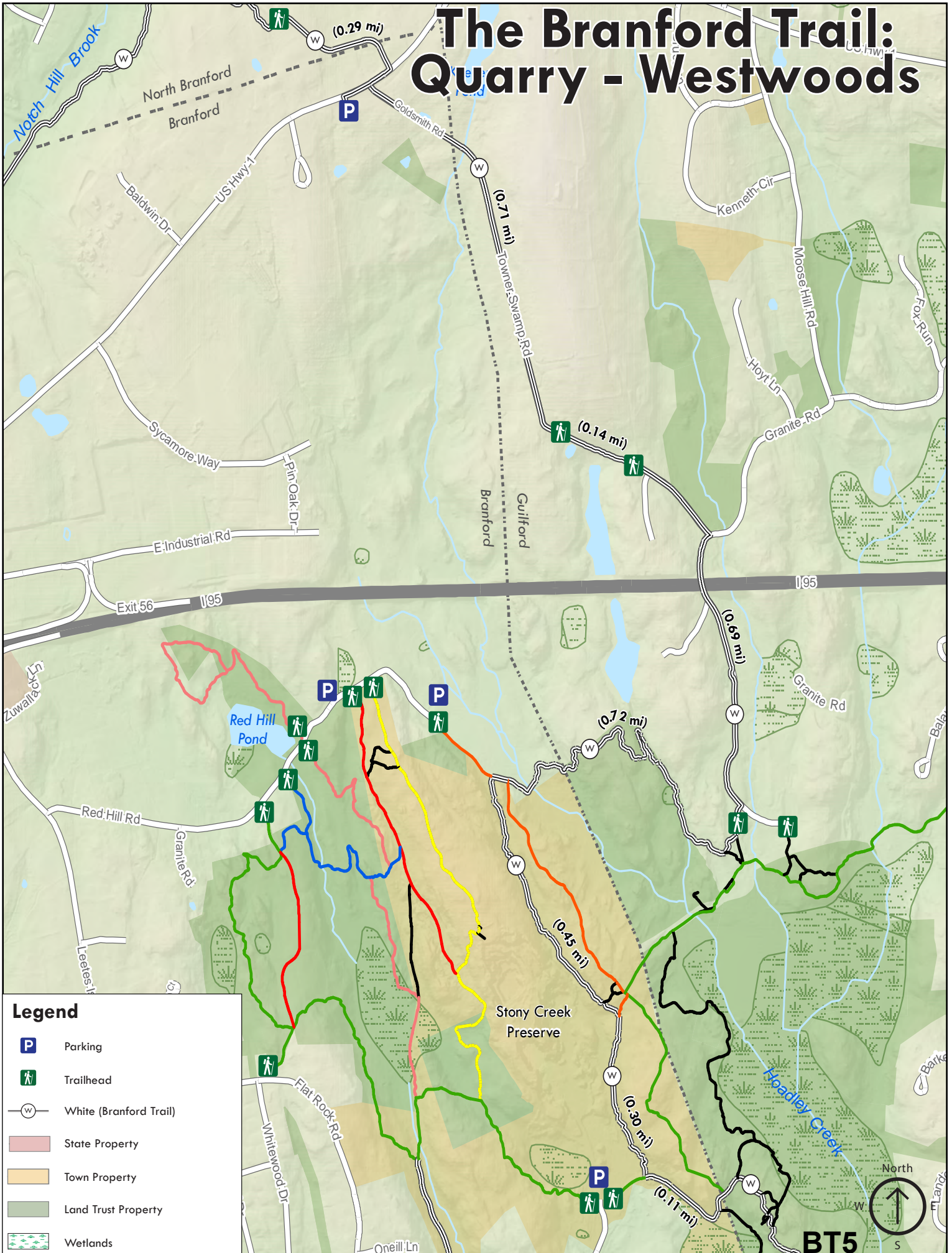


For more information about this walk contact:

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



The Branford Trail: Quarry - Westwoods



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- White (Branford Trail)
- State Property
- Town Property
- Land Trust Property
- Wetlands

BT5



The Branford Trail: North Boundary

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.

This 3.3 mile section of the Branford Trail features the northern town boundary and enters North Branford for a portion of the trail. This trail follows Notch Hill Brook and the Branford River for part of the way, with a railroad tracks crossing, and through wetland areas that may be muddy during rainy season.

The trail starts adjacent to a Methodist Church. The northern area is predominantly wooded with dense deciduous forest. The trail passes through Evergreen Woods (a retirement care facility) property and then turns east along the slope of the Branford River coming out at Woodwinds. After crossing the river on a road bridge, bear left through a parking lot. Shortly, the trail diverges from the river, crosses North Branford Road (Route 139), passes the Flax Mill soccer field, and travels through Branford Land Trust property to Northford Road.

A special feature adjacent to this hike is the town border marker. This large triangular concrete block shows where the town lines of Branford, North Branford, and Guilford converge. An initial for each; B for Branford, NB for North Branford, and G for Guilford indicates the direction of each town. The marker is located just east of the start of this trail.



Photo by CT DEEP

Directions and Parking:

Parking for this portion of the Branford Trail is at the corner of Goldsmith Road (Towner Swamp Road) and East Main Street (Route 1). This area of Branford is best reached via I-95 from exit 56 (Leetes Island Road) to Route 1.

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

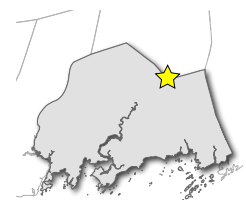
The North Boundary Section of the Branford Trail starts in the north east corner of Branford and immediately heads north into North Branford towards the Evergreen Retirement Community and then enters the woods. This sections switches back and forth between wooded hikes and short walks on public roads. Trailheads on the map signify the switch from wooded hikes to section of paved roads.

Total trail length is approx. 3.3 miles










For more information about this walk contact:

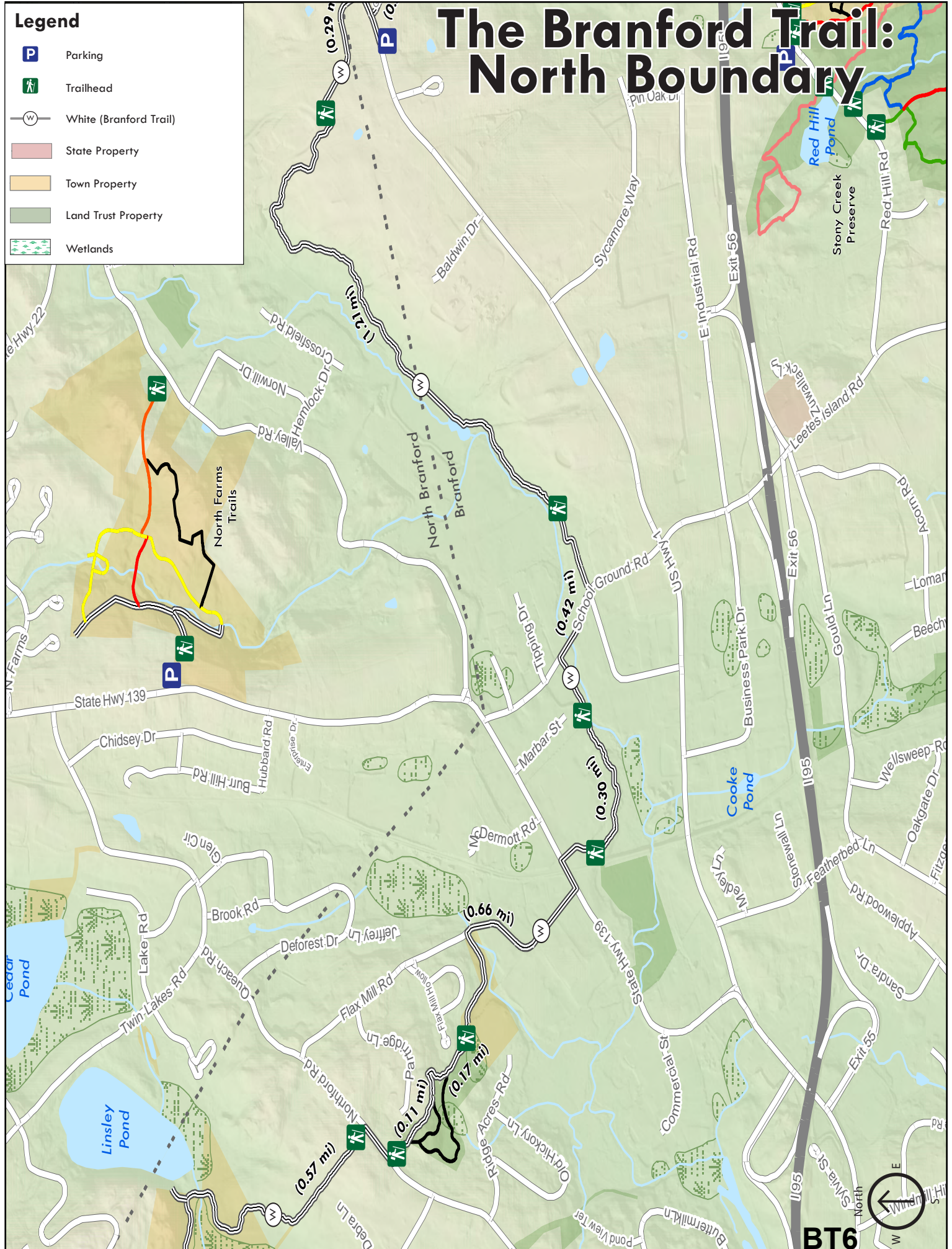
Town of Branford
Parks and Open Space Authority
(203) 488-8394 ext:120



The Branford Trail: North Boundary

Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  White (Branford Trail)
-  State Property
-  Town Property
-  Land Trust Property
-  Wetlands



BT6



The Branford Trail: Pisgah Brook

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 directions.

This 4.2 mile section of the Branford Trail features the Pisgah Brook and travels along the northern boundary of Branford through the Pisgah Brook Preserve. Walk east on Northford Road (toward North Branford) and then turn left to follow the trail northward into the woods. The trail crosses the Linsley Lake outlet stream, Queach Brook. Linsley Lake (also known as Linsley Pond) is famous in the field of ecology for the studies done there from the 1930s until the late 1970s by the noted Yale biologist George Evelyn Hutchinson.

The trail then follows Pisgah Brook upstream from Linsley Lake through an important wetland watershed area and a unique resource for a town of Branford's population. The trail continues to Brushy Plain Road, then crosses the road to end just past Lidyhites Pond. The pond is owned by Yale University and used for ecological studies. The trail stops at a stone wall (and yellow blazing) which signifies the start of the Regional Water Authority's property.

The next portion of the Branford Trail is the RWA's Lake Saltonstall property. Access for this part of the Branford Trail is for RWA permit holders only. Hikers with a permit may proceed onto Lake Saltonstall trails and then turn left to exit via the Hikers Parking Lot on Hosley Avenue.



Photo by CT Department of Environmental Protection

Directions and Parking:

A parking lot for this portion of the Branford Trail is off Northford Road, about 0.1 mile past Brook Hills (aka Brookhills) Road coming from Rte 1 in Branford, or about 0.2 mile past Flax Mill Road coming from Twin Lakes Rd in North Branford. Alternatively, on-street parking is available along Brook Hills 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 Hike

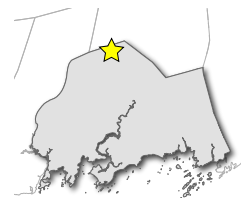
The Pisgah Brook section of the Branford Trail offers a nice hike and scenic views of some of Branford's lakes and ponds. There are many opportunities to see various types of wildlife. Please be aware that only permit holders can hike on RWA property.

Total Trails Length: approx. 4.20 miles

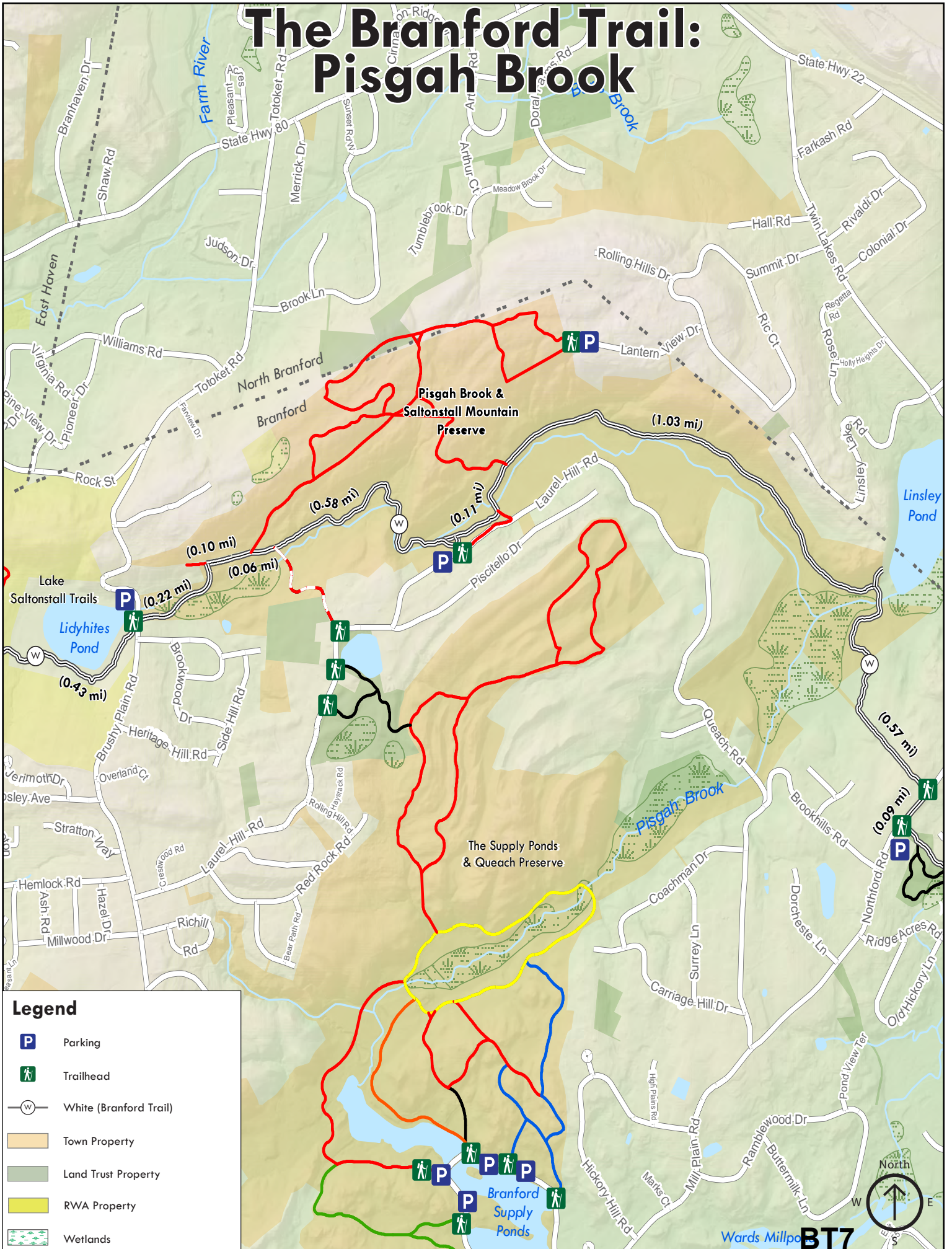


For more information about this walk contact:








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



The Branford Trail: Pisgah Brook



Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  White (Branford Trail)
-  Town Property
-  Land Trust Property
-  RWA Property
-  Wetlands



The Branford Trail: Lake Saltonstall

Regional Water Authority Permit Required

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.



Photo by Betsy Grauer

The Branford Trail uses a few of the Lake Saltonstall Trails to create the a complete trail and uses one of the most scenic and popular trails on the property, the Lake Saltonstall Trail. The Lake Saltonstall Trail is the site's most popular trail and is perfect for jogging, hiking, bicycling, or cross-country skiing. You'll find beautiful views of the lake all year long. You can traverse the trail one way along the lake to take advantage of the view or do the entire loop around. The inland portion of the trail weaves in and out of spruce and pine plantations, native hardwoods, and a powerline right-of-way. It's the best trail for spring wildflowers, but includes some wet areas.

The Branford Trail leaves RWA property from the Fishermen's Parking Lot and exits onto Hosley Avenue. Turn right (south) and walk along this forest road to West Main Street (Route 1). The trail ends at Lakeview Plaza.

To obtain a hiking permit or to investigate other recreational activities at Lake Saltonstall (biking, boating, fishing etc.) call (203) 401-2654.



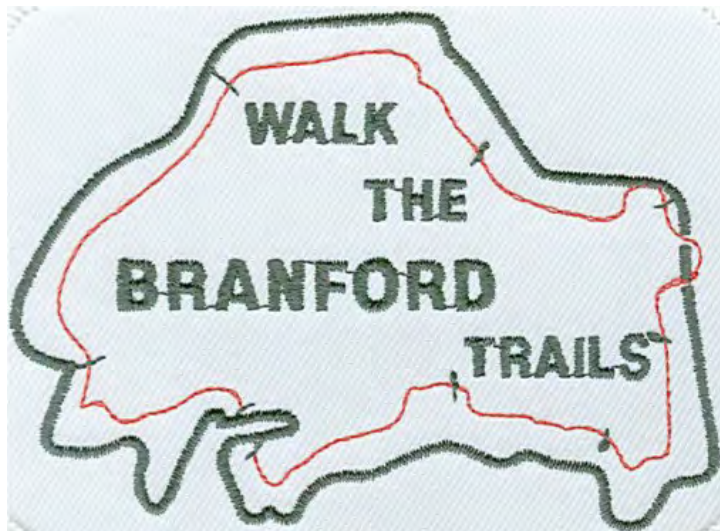
Photo by Alana Joli Abbott

Directions and Parking:

From I-95, take exit 52 and turn onto Route 1. Follow Route 1 and Hosley Avenue will be on the left in about a mile. Parking for this section is along Hosley Avenue. Hikers with a RWA permit may park in the Hiker's Parking Lot at 400 Hosley Ave.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

This trail follows public roads and private Regional Water Authority trails. A permit is required to access the RWA trails. Also, dogs are not permitted on RWA property. Hikers without a permit may walk along Hosley Avenue. This is a 3 miles, largely wooded stretch between Bushy Plain Road and West Main Street (Route 1).



Design for the Logo and Patch by Ralph Fuller

Easy Hike

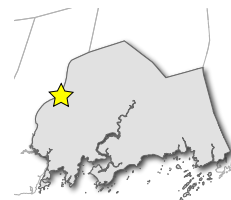
The Saltonstall section of the Branford Trail is the only section that uses the RWA Lake Saltonstall Lands. It offers a nice hike on the edge of the Lake Saltonstall reservoir. There are great views of Lake Saltonstall and the diverse ecology surrounding it along with connection to many other trails in the area. Please keep in mind that a permit is required for the RWA trails.

Total trail distance is approx. 3.7 miles

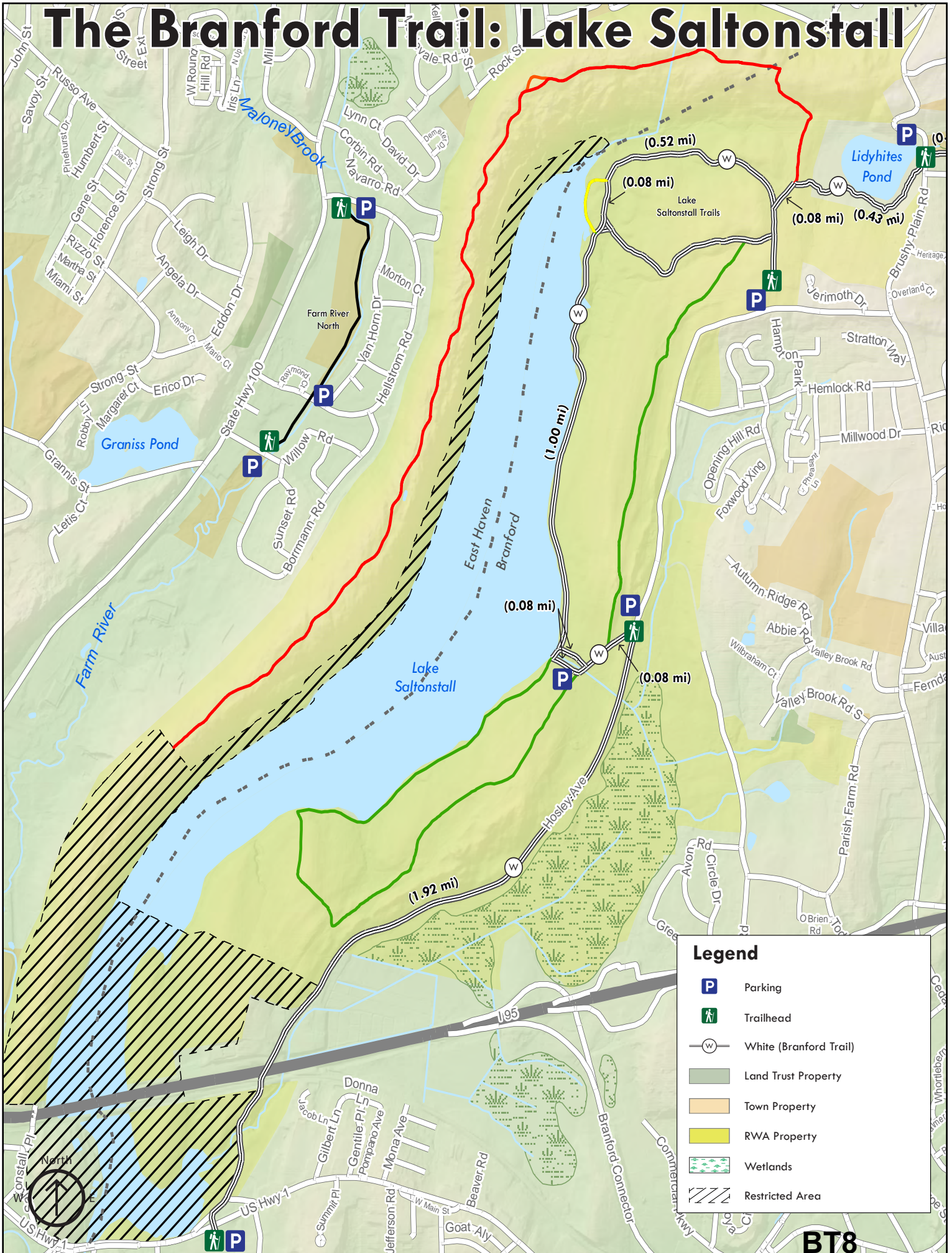


For more information about this walk contact:

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



The Branford Trail: Lake Saltonstall



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- White (Branford Trail)
- Land Trust Property
- Town Property
- RWA Property
- Wetlands
- Restricted Area