

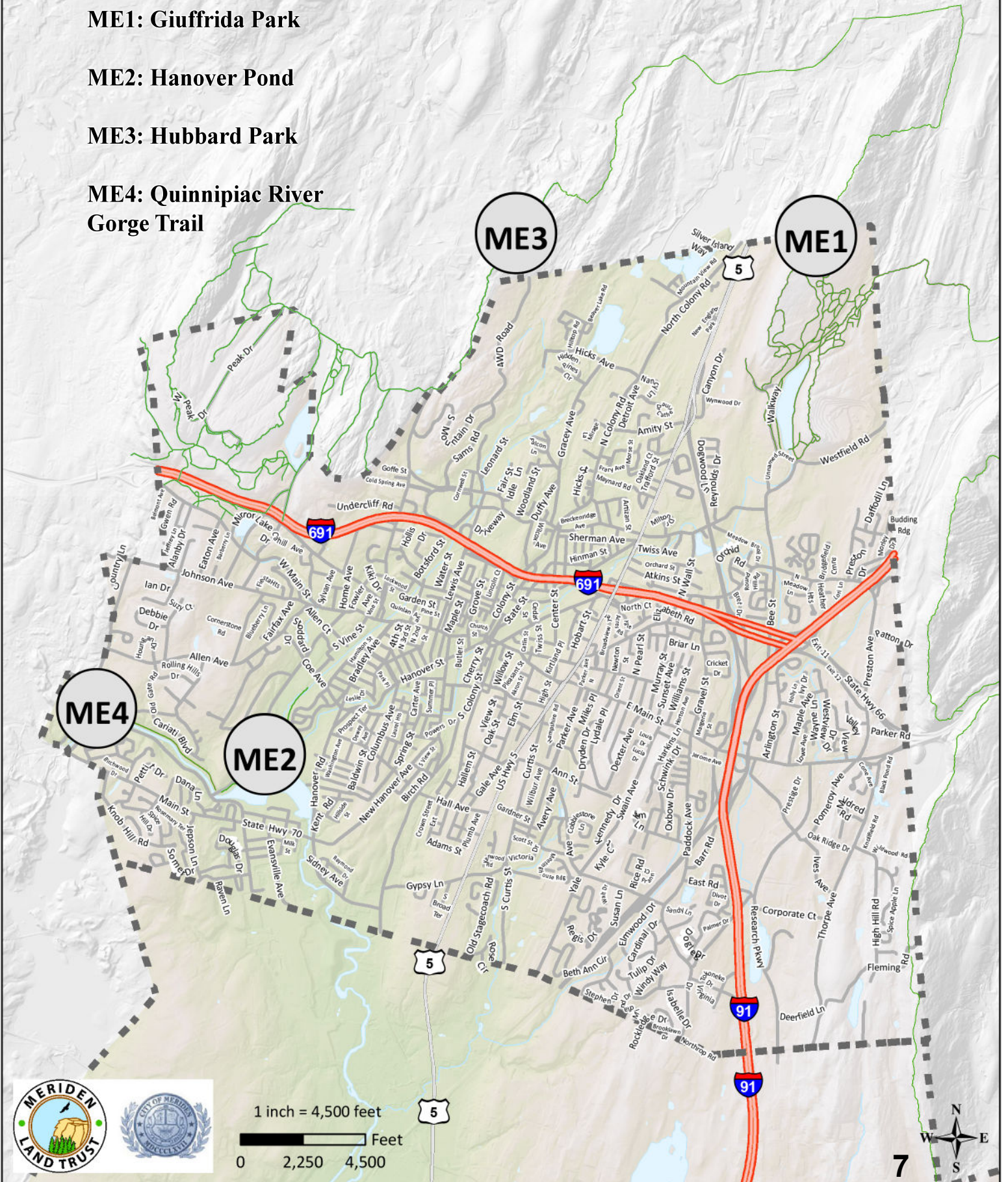
# Town of Meriden, CT Recreational Trails

ME1: Giuffrida Park

ME2: Hanover Pond

ME3: Hubbard Park

ME4: Quinnipiac River  
Gorge Trail



1 inch = 4,500 feet  
0 2,250 4,500 Feet



# Giuffrida Park

Giuffrida Park was originally part of an area farmed in the late 1600's and early 1700's by Jonathan Gilbert and later Captain Andrew Belcher. This farm, the first European settlement in this region, became known as the "Meriden Farm", from which the whole area eventually took its name. Today, the Park contains 598 acres for passive recreation and is adjacent to the Meriden Municipal Golf Course.

Located in the northeast corner of Meriden, the trails connect to the Mattabessett Trail (a Connecticut Blue-Blazed Trail) and are open to the general public. The trails have easy terrain particularly around the Crescent Lake shore with steeper areas along the trap rock ridges ascent of the Metacomet Ridge and approaching Mt. Lamentation.

Mount Lamentation was named in 1636 when a member of Wethersfield Colony became lost and was found by a search party three days later on this ridge, twelve miles from home. There is some controversy whether the Lamentation refers to his behavior or that of those looking for him. In 1735 a group of local men leased land on the western edge of this mountain in an attempt to find gold, as quartz formations there seemed promising. None was ever found.

Mt. Lamentation and its peak, Chauncey Peak, provide spectacular views of Hartford, Middlesex, and New Haven counties.



Photo By Bob Pagini

## Trail Description:

### Easy to Difficult Hike

Giuffrida Park offers everything from a peaceful reservoir to a beautiful wetland meadow to stunning views from Lamentation Mountain and Chauncey Peak. These trap rock ridges are extremely steep, and care should be taken. In addition to trails that climb to ridgelines, there are other trails that follow relatively level terrain.

Total trails distance is approx. 24.8 miles

## Directions and Parking:

To get to Giuffrida Park, travel along I-91 either north or south. Take Exit 20 and proceed west (left off exit from north or left, then right from the south) onto Country Club Road. The Park entrance is on the right. Parking areas are readily available at the Park. Trails start at the Crescent Lake parking lot.

## Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Hiking and biking are permitted. Picnic tables are also available. Crescent Lake is a reserve water supply therefore, swimming, rock climbing, and boating are prohibited. Fishing is also prohibited.



Photo By the City of Meriden

**Total Trails Length:** Approx. 24.8 miles

**Blue (Mattabessett Trail):** 6.3 miles. Moderate Hike

**Blue/Red (Mattabessett Cut-Off):** 0.04 miles. Easy Hike

**Red (Mt. Lamentation Trail):** 0.6 miles. Moderate to Difficult Hike

**Yellow (Mt. Lamentation Trail):** 0.8 miles. Moderate Hike

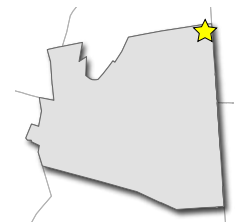
**White (Crescent Lake Loop):** 1.41 miles. Moderate Hike

**Other Trails:** 15.65 miles. Easy to Difficult Hike

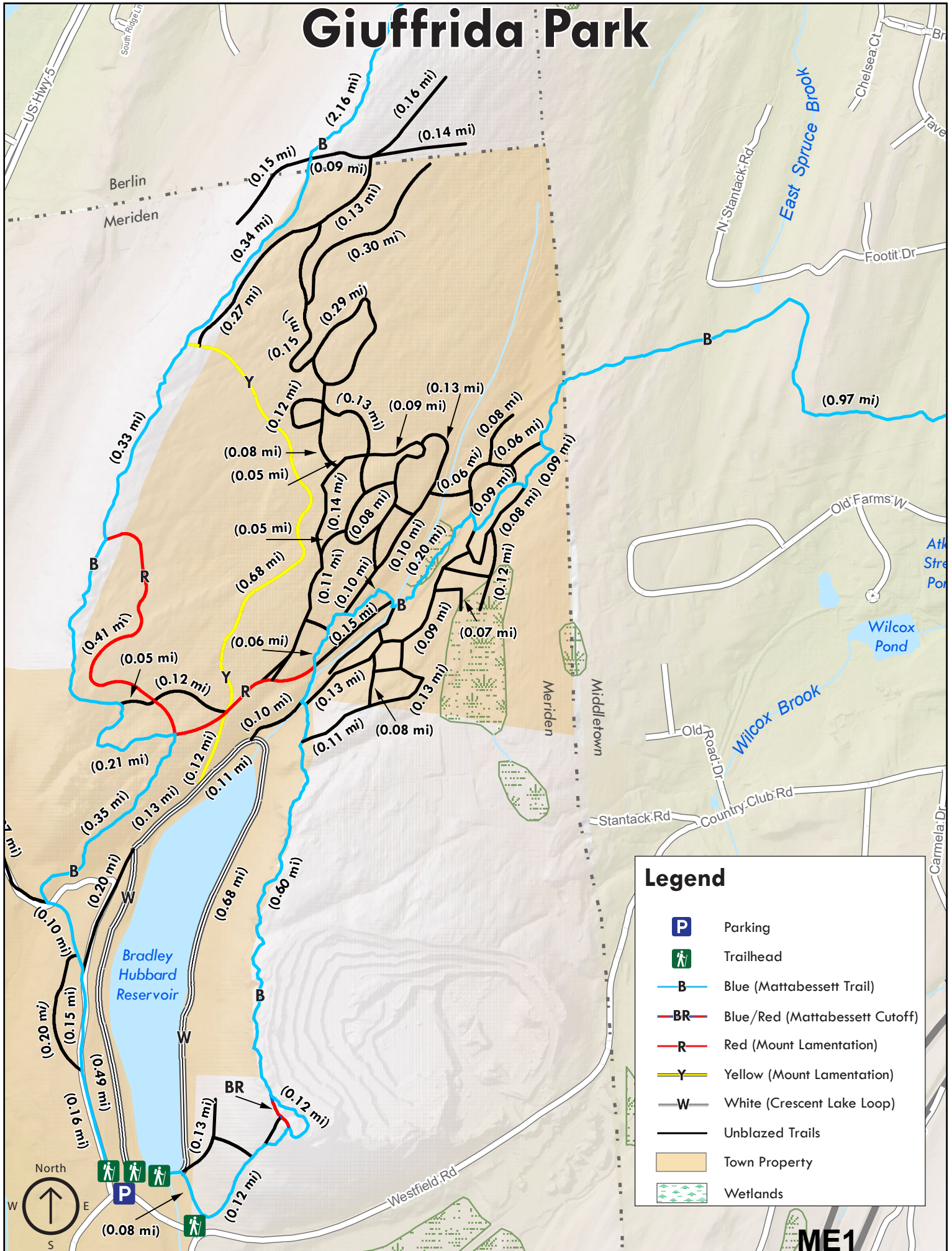


## For more information about this location, contact:











Town of Meriden  
Recreation Program Supervisor  
(203) 630-4259



# Giuffrida Park



### Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  Blue (Mattabessett Trail)
-  Blue/Red (Mattabessett Cutoff)
-  Red (Mount Lamentation)
-  Yellow (Mount Lamentation)
-  White (Crescent Lake Loop)
-  Unblazed Trails
-  Town Property
-  Wetlands

ME1

# Hanover Pond

Hanover Pond was created when a dam was built in 1855 to power the Meriden Cutlery Company. In the winter, pond ice was harvested to support local stores and homes. Several parks were developed around the pond over time.

Hanover Park (once a major regional attraction) was home to a large amusement park, with theater productions, rides, games, and semi-pro baseball.

The bath house for Dossin Beach, built in 1932, is now the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association (QRWA) headquarters building. Boating is returning to this whole area.

The Quinnipiac River is stocked every year with trout. If you are quiet and pay attention, you will see much wildlife (and possibly Bald Eagles) less than one mile from downtown Meriden.

The Meriden Linear Trails network follows an historic rail bed. The Meriden, Waterbury & Connecticut River Railroad was built in 1885 and was used until 1917. The Gorge Trail (Phase I) has many historic sites. Carpenters Dam was home to Hough's Mill. Grist was made here and shipped to the West Indies. Oregon Dam was the home of a Button Factory. Red Bridge was built prior to 1890 as a road passage and continues to be a landmark today.

Phase II follows Sodom Brook. This quadrant of land, originally Coe Farm, was home to the Meriden Ice Company and a civil war training facility called Camp Tyler.



Photo by Bob Pagini

## Trail Description:

### Easy Walk

The Meriden Linear Trails offer beautiful views of the Quinnipiac River, Hanover Pond and Sodom Brook. Bring comfortable walking shoes, bicycles, roller blades, strollers, wheelchairs, etc.

Total trail distance is approx. 1.0 mile

## Directions and Parking:

From I-691: take exit 15 north or south and head south on Chamberlain Highway (Route 71). Turn right where Route 71 connects with West Main St and take the second left onto Centennial Ave. Continue straight and the entrance to Dossin Beach will be on the left. Parking is available at Dossin Beach on the west side of Hanover Pond (with access from Oregon Rd.) and at the end of the trail with access from Coe Ave.

## Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Hiking, biking and skating are permitted. No motorized vehicles. Wheelchair accessible. Leashed pets are welcome, please clean up any waste.



Photo by Peter Marteka

**Total Trails Length:** *Approx. 1.0 mile*




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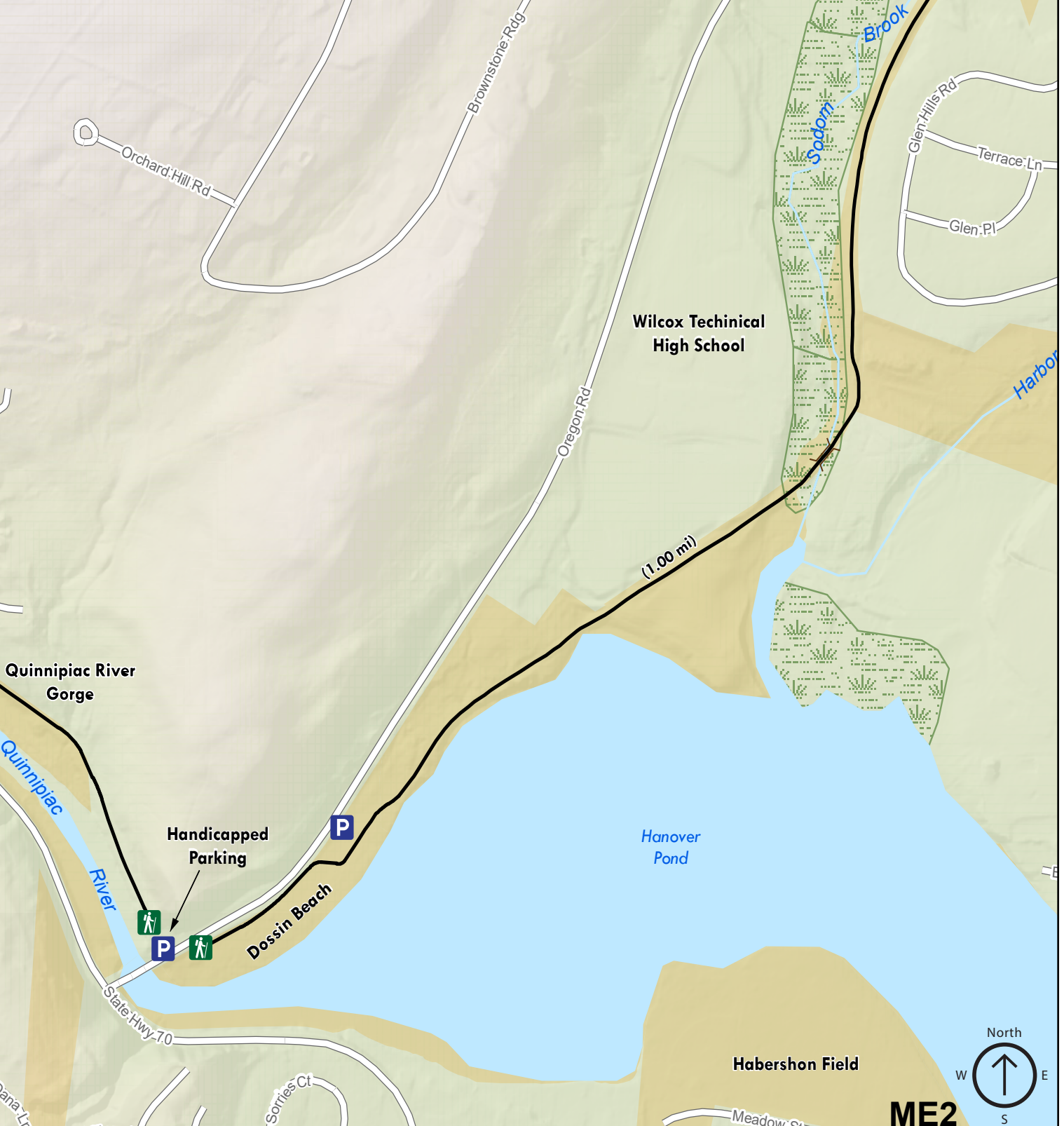


# Hanover Pond

## Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  Bridge
-  Hanover Pond Trail
-  Town Property
-  Land Trust Property
-  Wetlands

Orville H. Platt  
High School



ME2

# Hubbard Park

Hubbard Park is one of the area's great resources with 1,800 acres of parkland available for year-round use. The park includes the East/West Peak which is considered the highest mountain within 25 miles of the coastline from most parts of Maine to Florida. These are also known as the Hanging Hills of Meriden and is part of the Metacomet Ridge that runs from Northampton, MA to Branford, CT.

Volcanoes formed the Ridge nearly 200 million years ago when major lava flows covered Meriden. Although originally covered by other sediments, the process of erosion over time has exposed these volcanic ridges and is a primary part of the regional landscape.

Walter Hubbard, the park's namesake, was the president of the Bradley and Hubbard Manufacturing Company. He gave the land outright with no strings attached except that the park was to remain free for all residents of Meriden and that no concessions for profit are allowed within the park.

The park includes woodland, lake and stream, flower gardens, and picnic areas that were designed and constructed with the help of Frederick Law Olmstead (designer of New York's Central Park). Mirror Lake, at the southerly area of the park, was also constructed as part of this design process. The band shell was built in 1956 and is the site of numerous concerts and outdoor festivals including the Daffodil Festival usually held in April.

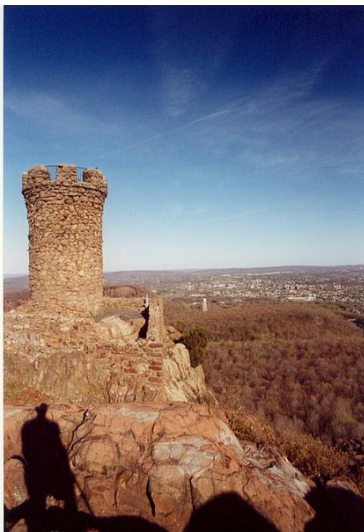


Photo by Paul Gagnon

## Trail Description:

### Easy to Difficult Hike

Hubbard Park offers some of the most spectacular vistas available in Meriden, including views from West Peak, East Peak and South Mountain (which actually lies outside of the park). These trap rock ridges are extremely steep, and care should be taken. In addition to trails that climb to ridgelines, there are other trails that follow relatively level terrain.

Total trails distance is approx. 15.5 miles

## Directions and Parking:

The Park can be accessed via I-91 South to I-691 West to the exit for Southington/Route 322. At the end of the exit, make a left onto West Main Street. Hubbard Park is on the left, approximately 1 mile from the highway exit. As an alternative, you may take I-84 West to I-691 East to the West Main Street exit. At the end of the exit, make a right onto West Main Street and continue as above. Parking areas are readily available at the Park at the start of the trail head adjacent to Mirror Lake.

## Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Hiking and biking is permitted. Picnic Tables are also available. Swimming, rock climbing, and boating is prohibited. Fishing allowed in Mirror Lake for those aged 15 and under.



Photo by Ben Prepelka

**Total Trails Length:** Approx. 15.5 mile

**Blue (Metacomet Trail):** 7.27 miles. Easy to Difficult Hike

**Red Trail:** 1.0 mile. Easy to Difficult Hike

**Yellow Trail:** 0.34 miles. Easy to Difficult Hike

**White Trail:** 2.15 miles. Easy to Difficult Hike

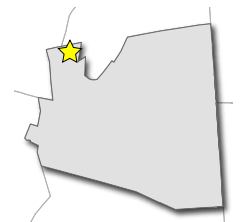
**Orange Trail:** 0.51 miles. Easy to Difficult Hike

**Other Trails:** 3.9 miles. Easy to Difficult Hike



## For more information about this location, contact:

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# Quinnipiac River Gorge Trail

The 1.3 mile paved, multi-use Quinnipiac Gorge Trail was completed in 2006 and sits on the rail bed of the Meriden, Waterbury, & Connecticut River Railroad (circa 1890). The trail starts at Lions Club Park - distinguished by two grand granite columns. The trail follows the rail bed westward along the Gorge with several scenic viewing areas of the Quinnipiac River and informational kiosks. Portions of the trail which are steep and susceptible to rock slides are noted by split rail fencing and signage.

Water power spurred industry along the river including the Meriden Gorge Carpenter's Dam, which powered a civil war button factory. The dams formed impounded lakes like Hanover Pond and Wallingford's Community Lake.

Near Hanover Pond, the "Red Bridge" connected Oregon Road to Cheshire and provided access to recreation at the Pond. The Quinnipiac River and the Gorge area is making a strong recovery from its industrial legacy through habitat and river restoration efforts of the City of Meriden and the Inland Fisheries Division. Their work includes two rock vanes which create thermal refuge for trout during hot summer months when the river temperature rises above optimum temperatures for their survival.



Photo by the City of Meriden



Photo by the City of Meriden

## Directions and Parking:

The Quinnipiac River Gorge Trail can be accessed directly off of River Road (State Route 70). Handicap Accessible parking areas are available on Oregon Road at the Red Bridge. General Parking is located at the Dossin Beach parking areas adjacent to Hanover Pond. Additional parking is available in a gravel lot on Finch Avenue at the Cheshire Town line.

## Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

The multi-use trail is fully handicap accessible. Hiking and canoeing is permitted. This part of the Quinnipiac Gorge is stocked with fish. Fishing is allowed by State license. Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

**Total Trails Length:** Approx. 1.29 miles

## Trail Description:

### Easy Walk

The Gorge Trail offers beautiful views of the Quinnipiac River alongside many historical sites. Bring comfortable walking shoes, bicycles, roller blades strollers or wheelchairs.

Total trail distance is approx. 1.29 miles

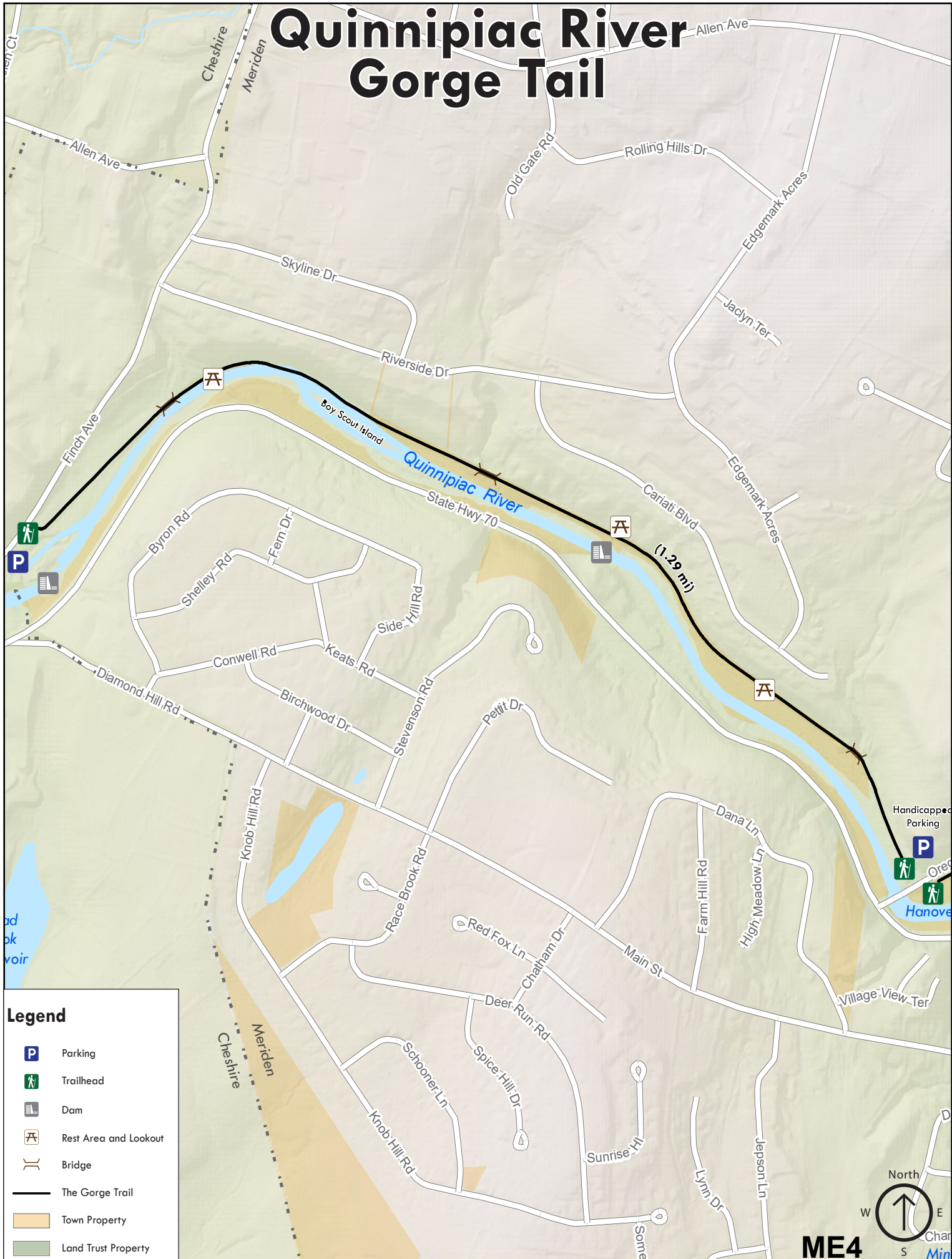


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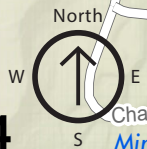


# Quinnipiac River Gorge Trail



## Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- Dam
- Rest Area and Lookout
- Bridge
- The Gorge Trail
- Town Property
- Land Trust Property



**ME4**