

# Town of Milford, CT Recreational Trails

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MI4: Mondo Ponds

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Park

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1 inch = 5,000 feet



# Beaver Brook

The Beaver Brook marsh walking trail is on private property with a public access easement. It loops along the edge of a 41 acre fresh water marsh and the Beaver Brook canal. A boardwalk that was destroyed in a 2012 fire is being planned for replacement in 2016 or 2017. Off-street parking and walking trail enhancements will provide access to the new boardwalk for people of all abilities when the project is completed.

Waterfowl and other wildlife can be viewed in the marsh and nearby forested areas. Ospreys have nested nearby and are seen here. Turtles, green frogs, and northern water snakes can be seen along the edge of the marsh and sunning themselves on marsh logs.

Butterflies, dragonflies, and damselflies can be seen along the trail between the marsh and the Beaver Brook canal.

This protected marsh habitat is bordered by Metro North Railroad and nearby I-95. Walking along this conservation area is reminder that these ecological areas are important habitats for wildlife, buffers for people, and water quality.

Managing the Phragmites Common Reed and other invasive plants are being planned during the boardwalk restoration project. The Phragmites are an example of a non-native invasive plant that degrades the ecosystem habitat and creates a fire hazard.



Photo by Steve Johnson, City of Milford

## Trail Description:

### Easy Hike

This walk travels through a relatively flat area on gravel trails around a wetland area. Currently there is no boardwalk to connect the existing trail loop, however there are plans for a new boardwalk in the coming years.

Total trails distance is approx. 0.89 miles

## Directions and Parking:

Off street parking is available for 16 cars at 553 West Avenue. This is approximately 0.2 miles from U.S. Route 1, Boston Post Road.

## Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Trails are open 1/2 hour before sunrise and 1/2 hour after sunset or as posted. Stay on the trails. Dogs must be leashed at all times. No motorized vehicles are allowed and alcoholic beverages are prohibited.



Photo by Steve Johnson, City of Milford

Total Trails Length: Approx. 0.89 miles

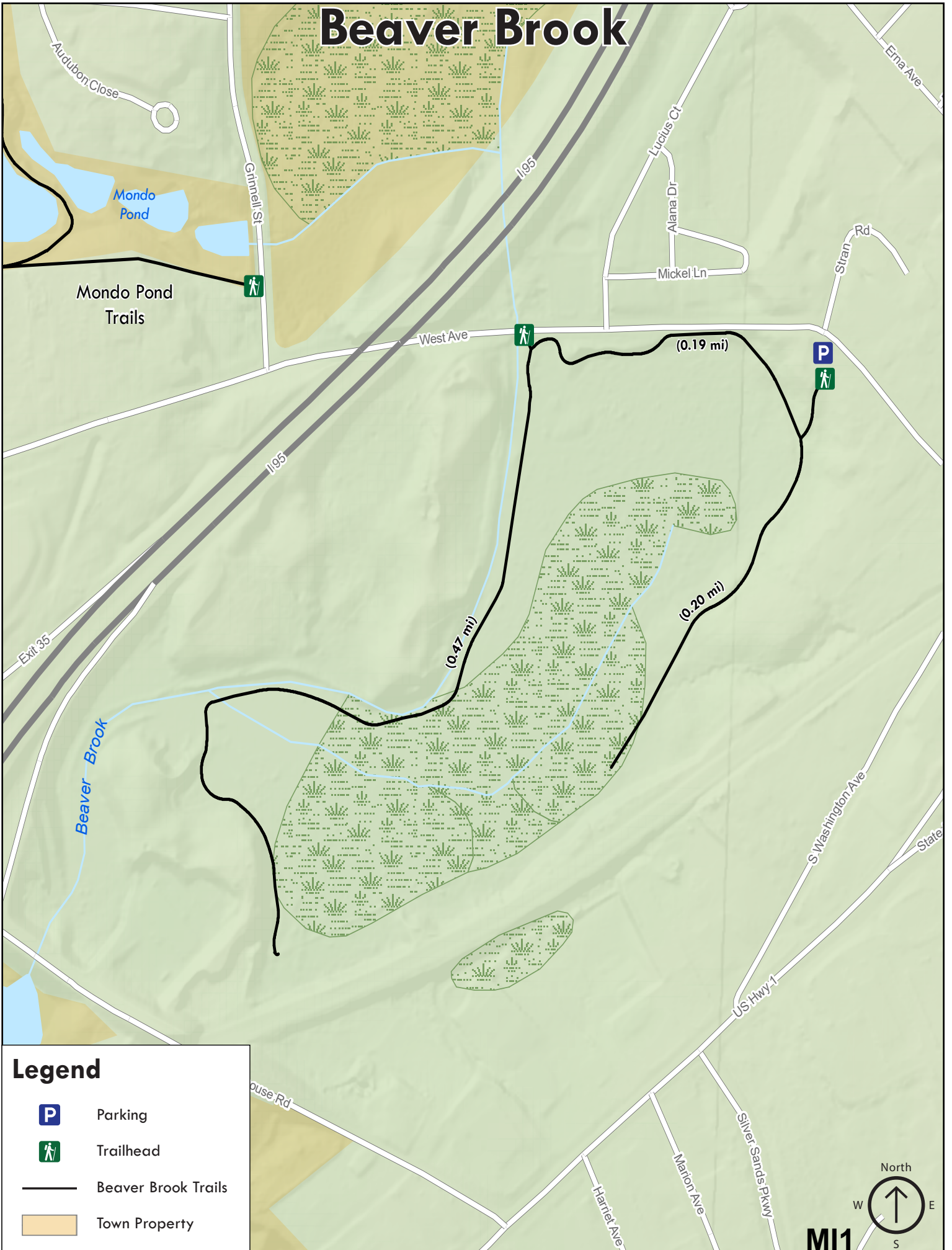


## For more information about this location, contact:





City of Milford  
Open Space & Natural Resources  
Office  
(203) 239-5321 or (203) 783-3201



# Beaver Brook



## Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  Beaver Brook Trails
-  Town Property



**MI1**

# Eisenhower Park

An extensive network of trails meander along recreational areas, a community garden, lawns, fields, shrublands, the Wepawaug River, wetlands, vernal pools, and forested areas. The trails connect nearly every portion of the 200 acre Eisenhower Park.

Eisenhower Park is the home of many community events during the year.

The Wepawaug River flows the entire length of Eisenhower Park. Part of the river is diverted to a pond and forms a small island connected by bridges. The park's extensive wetlands provide many vital environmental benefits. In 2007, over two acres of wetland floodplain and approximately six acres of enhanced surrounding buffer were created in south Eisenhower.

Fields and young forests are common features of the park. In most cases, they are found in abandoned agricultural sites. Occasional stone walls or excavated areas remind visitors of past land uses.

The variety of habitats in Milford's largest park provides a diversity of scenic areas to enjoy and nurtures the park's diverse wildlife. Migrating and nesting birds, butterflies, and other wildlife frequent here.

Community volunteers and scouts have helped enhance the work of the City to make Eisenhower Park a place to enjoy.

Leashed dogs are welcome when outside the fenced dog park area.



*American Yellow Warbler*

*Photo by Brian E. Small*

## Trail Description:

### Easy Hike

The Eisenhower Park trails are a great hike for all ages. The trails wind through the woods and most loop back to themselves.

*Total trail distance is approx. 4.58 miles*

## Directions and Parking:

From I-95, take exit 39B and a right onto Boston Post Road (Route 1). Follow Rt. 1 until the intersection with North Street (Route 121). Take a right at the intersection and the entrance to the park will be on the left in about 1.3 miles.

701 North Street is the main address. Park in the lower lot for access to the many trails.

## Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Stay on the trails. Dogs must be leashed at all times. No motorized vehicles are allowed and alcoholic beverages are prohibited.



*Photo by Steve Johnson, City of Milford*

**Total Trails Length:** *Approx. 4.58 miles*

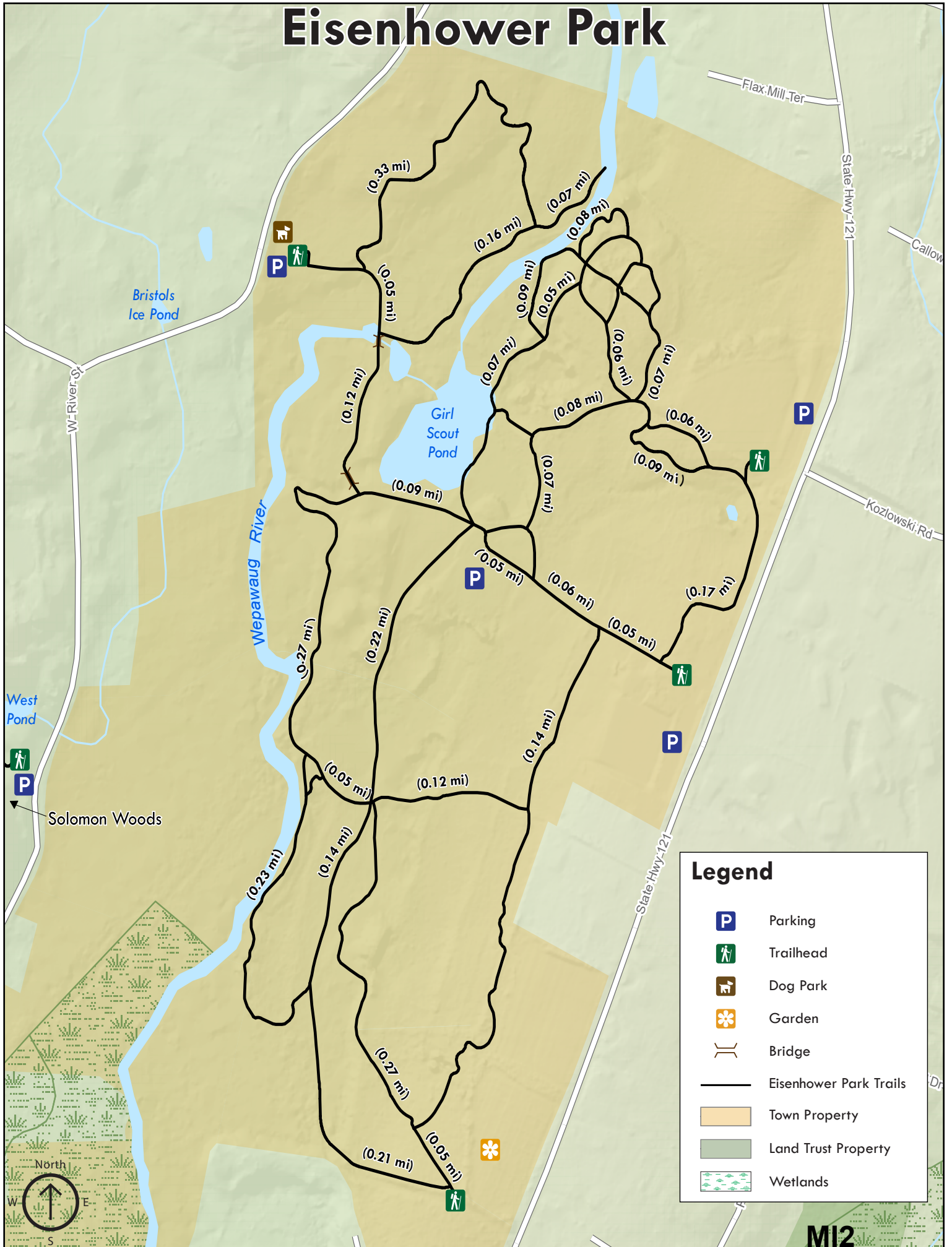


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# Eisenhower Park



# Great River Walk

The Great River Walk is short 1/3rd of a mile to the boardwalk overlooking the Housatonic River. Steep trail sections have steps in two locations.

This public access trail is in the north Milford Great River residential area. The Great River Walk has an off-street parking area. Look for a dirt driveway at the curve of Centennial Drive.

The trail starts at the south end of the parking lot. The trail passes under the Metro North Waterbury Rail line. It continues up a set of stone steps.

This portion of the trail also overlooks the forested Housatonic River Conservation Area owned by the City of Milford.

On the other side of the trail, the walk overlooks the scenic Great River Golf course offering great views of the Housatonic River.

The trail connects to a boardwalk winding through a tidal salt marsh. This elevated walkway leads to a viewing platform running parallel with the Housatonic River. Great Flats Island is located to the south of the viewing platform.

Look for birds feeding along the edges of the tidal flats such as Herons, Egrets, Clapper and King Rails. Watch for hawks flying overhead along the river or ducks on the river. Other wildlife can be seen along this walk.



Photo by Steve Johnson, City of Milford

## Trail Description:

### Moderate with Several Steep Sections with Steps

This pleasant walk meanders through the woods, along one side of the Great River Golf Course. You will see lovely vistas of the Housatonic River, a babbling brook and the several different views of the golf course.

Total trail distance is approx. 0.31 miles

## Directions and Parking:

Follow Wheelers Farm Road to Herbert Street. Turn left on Coram Lane, then left on Augusta Drive. At the end of Augusta continue onto Centennial Drive following the bend to the left. As Centennial Drive curves left, look for the dirt driveway leading to the parking area.

## Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Dogs must be leashed at all times. No motorized vehicles are allowed and alcoholic beverages are prohibited. Stay on the trail.



Photo by Steve Johnson, City of Milford

Total Trails Length: Approx. 0.31 miles

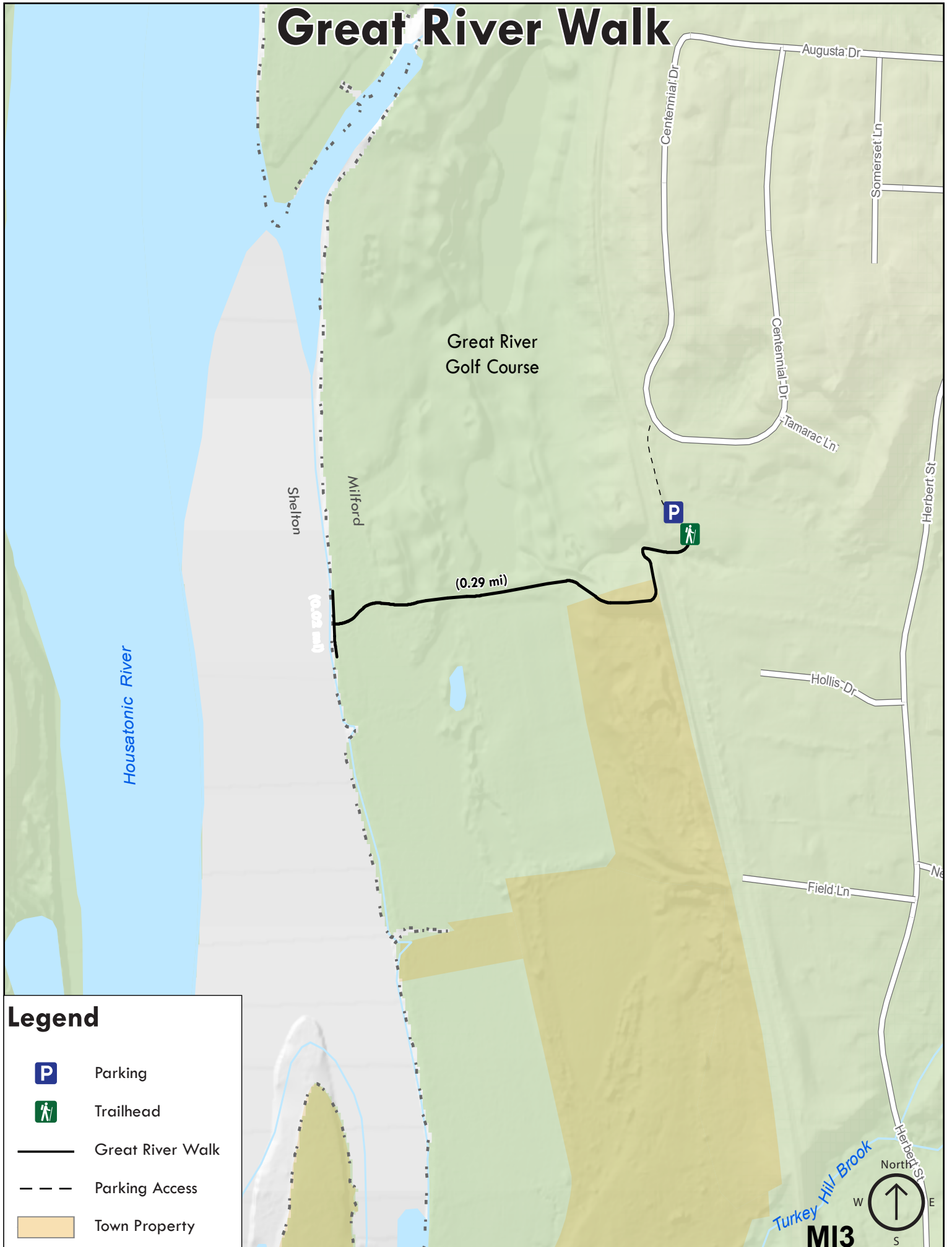


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# Great River Walk



# Mondo Ponds

The Mondo Ponds Nature Preserve walking trail borders ponds were created after gravel was excavated during the 1950s.

The five ponds and wetlands cover about 36 acres. The vegetation includes marsh, hardwood swamp, upland American Beech forest, and conifer habitats. Mondo Ponds is one of several contiguous open space parcels that the City acquired from the Regional Water Authority.

Bring your binoculars to view the waterfowl and other wildlife that can be viewed in the ponds and nearby forested areas. Off-shore rocky out-crops are prime viewing areas for waterfowl during the spring and fall bird migrations. About 175 birds have been documented at this special place including endangered, threatened, and species of concern.

Butterflies, dragonflies, and damselflies can also be seen along the pond edges. Turtles and other amphibians depend on this habitat area.

As a nature preserve, fishing from shore is permitted at Mondo Ponds. Do not fish near nesting birds during the spring and early summer season. Please dispose of litter and fishing line in a responsible way. Boating, including the use of remote controlled boats, and swimming is not allowed here.

Do not use the parking area or school grounds at the Public School during school hours.



Photo by Steve Johnson, City of Milford

## Trail Description:

### Easy Hike

This walk travels around two open space pond areas. The parking area at 404 West Avenue is on the property of a Public School. Therefore, parking IS NOT permitted in this lot during school hours

Total trails distance is approx. 1.11 miles

## Directions and Parking:

Limited off-street parking is available at Naugatuck Avenue, about 0.1 miles West of Grinnell Street.

The parking area at 404 West Avenue is on the property of a Public School. Therefore, parking IS NOT permitted in this lot during school hours.

## Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Trails are open ½ hour before sunrise and ½ hour after sunset or as posted. Stay on the trails. As a nature preserve, dogs are not permitted. No motorized vehicles or bicycling is allowed and alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

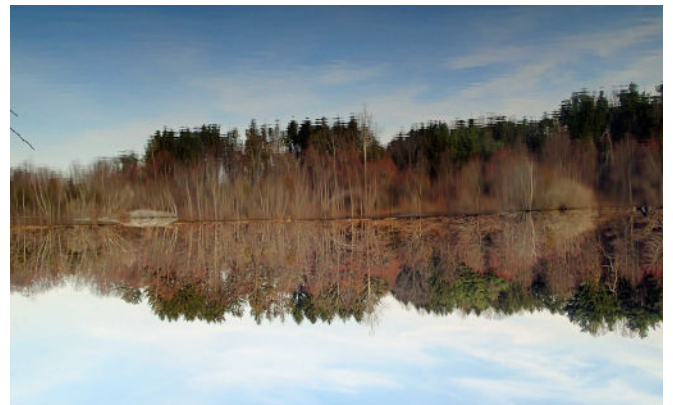


Photo by Steve Johnson, City of Milford

**Total Trails Length:** Approx. 1.11 miles

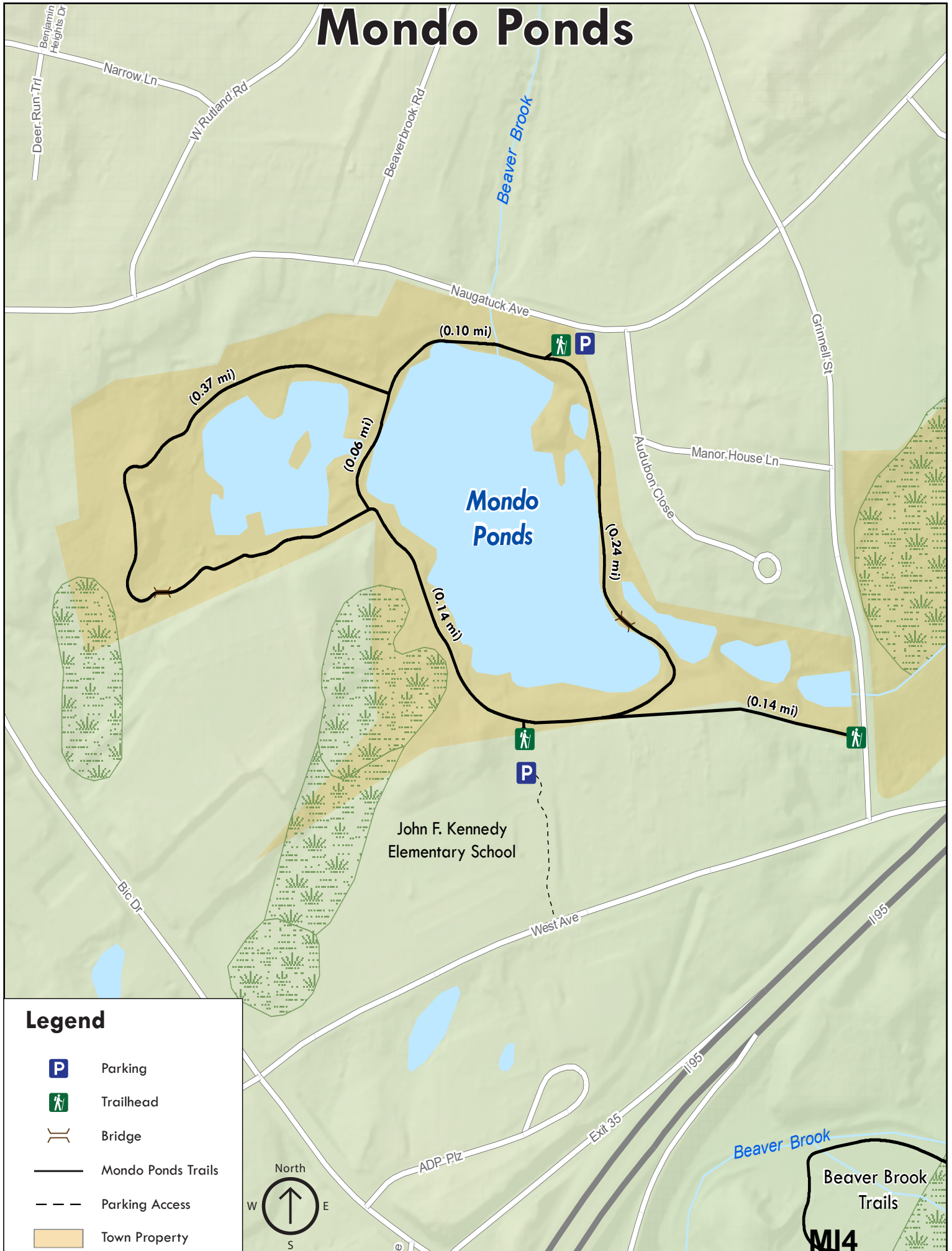


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

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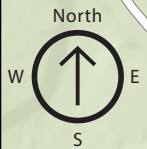


# Mondo Ponds



## Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  Bridge
-  Mondo Ponds Trails
-  Parking Access
-  Town Property



Beaver Brook Trails  
**MI4**

# Solomon Woods

The City owned Solomon Woods property is 100 acres lying west of Eisenhower Park on West River Street. It offers a number of unique wetland forest features that are aesthetically captivating and ecologically important. Vernal pools at Solomon Woods are vital breeding grounds for amphibians such as wood frogs and spotted salamanders in the early spring.

Wepawaug Schist ledge outcroppings form ridges that the trail overlooks into a large central wetland and surrounding hillsides. Evidence of the last glacier period can still be seen from groves carved into the bedrock on the east side of the trail.

Rock walls and abandoned wells offer a glimpse into the past when portions of this property were farmed. Tulip, Northern Red Oak, Red Maple, American Beech, Black Birch, and White Pine are the dominant trees. A diverse understory of shrubs, ferns, and other plants provide a landscape diversity unlike other public trails in Milford.

The main trail loops around Solomon Woods with several other trails connecting to the main trail. There is a small trail loop near the trail head for young families without any stream crossings. Along the main trail loop be careful when crossing five small streams that have stepping stones. Snow cover provides great snowshoeing or cross country skiing.

There is diverse wildlife in this ecologically sensitive habitat. For the safety of the wildlife and your dogs, please keep them leashed while enjoying the trails.

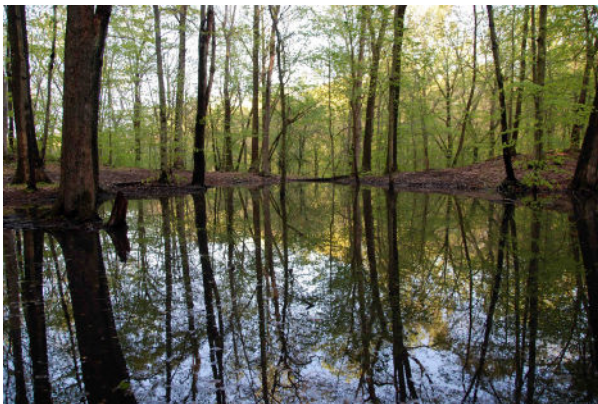


Photo by Steve Johnson, City of Milford

## Trail Description:

### Moderate Hike

The Solomon Property trails wind through various different ecologies and terrains. The trails can get steep and muddy so use caution.

Total trail distance is approx. 2.37 miles

## Directions and Parking:

Limited parking is available at 810 West River Street. This is approximately 0.4 miles south of Wolf Harbor Road and 0.3 miles north of Fresh Meadow Lane.

## Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Trails are open ½ hour before sunrise and ½ hour after sunset or as posted. Stay on the trails. Dogs must be leashed at all times. No motorized vehicles are allowed and alcoholic beverages are prohibited.



Photo by Steve Johnson, City of Milford

**Total Trails Length:** Approx. 2.37 miles

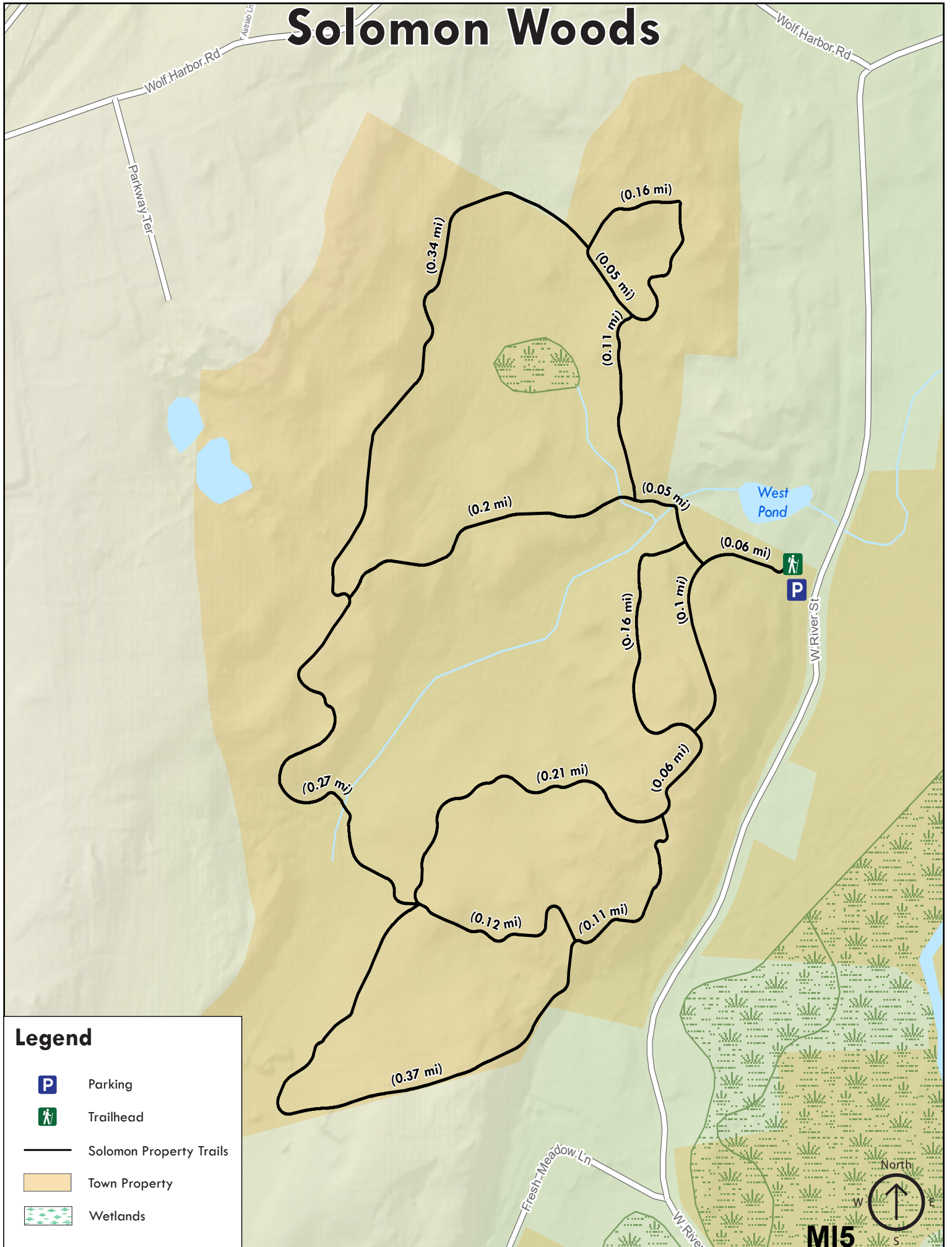


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# Solomon Woods



## Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- Solomon Property Trails
- Town Property
- Wetlands



# Wilcox Park

Wilcox Park is a wooded and grass area of about 12 acres situated on a bluff overlooking Milford Harbor.

This land is part of the original land grant to William Fowler, the first miller. This land was owned by the Fowler family until purchased by Clark Wilcox in 1908. Mr. Wilcox deeded this land to the Town of Milford in 1909 as a public park.

With the help of the Milford Garden Club, CT declared this as part of a state refuge for wildlife in 1931.

In 1939 Milford Harbor was dredged. The mud and debris removed was used to fill in a tidal marsh. Today that area is called Fowler Field.

In 2003, Wilcox Park underwent a major restoration that include the current trails, benches, and viewing platform. A plaque near the lower parking lot commemorates this project. Volunteer groups secured funding for this project from CT Long Island Sound and Iroquois Land Enhancement Funds. Community groups, scouts, and schools continue to help the City care for Wilcox Park.

Today Wilcox Park continues to be an important bird viewing area in the heart of downtown Milford. Waterfowl can be viewed in the harbor or flying overhead. A variety of birds depend on this area during spring and fall migrations.

The East Coast Greenway passes through the park on Shipyard Lane. The trails provide a place for a quiet walk, opportunities for viewing wildlife and scenic views of Milford Harbor.



Photo by CT DEEP

## Trail Description:

### Easy to Moderate Hike

Wilcox Park features an extensive trail system through a forest adjacent to Milford Harbor. The trails lead to a cantilevered wooden platform that offers excellent views of Milford harbor and the wide variety of boating activity it supports. The site also hosts a boat ramp with parking for vehicles and trailers. Boaters must obtain a parking pass to access the launch.

Total trails distance is approx. 0.49 miles

## Directions and Parking:

Milford Public Library, 57 New Haven Avenue. Follow Shipyard Ln. behind the library. Parking is across from the Boat Launch parking area. The lower trail starts at the boat launch parking lot. Limited handicap parking is located in a parking area at the end of a shared driveway at Harborside Drive and Bedford Avenue.

## Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Dogs must be leashed at all times. No motorized vehicles are allowed and alcoholic beverages are prohibited.



Photo by Steve Johnson, City of Milford

Total Trails Length: Approx. 0.49 miles

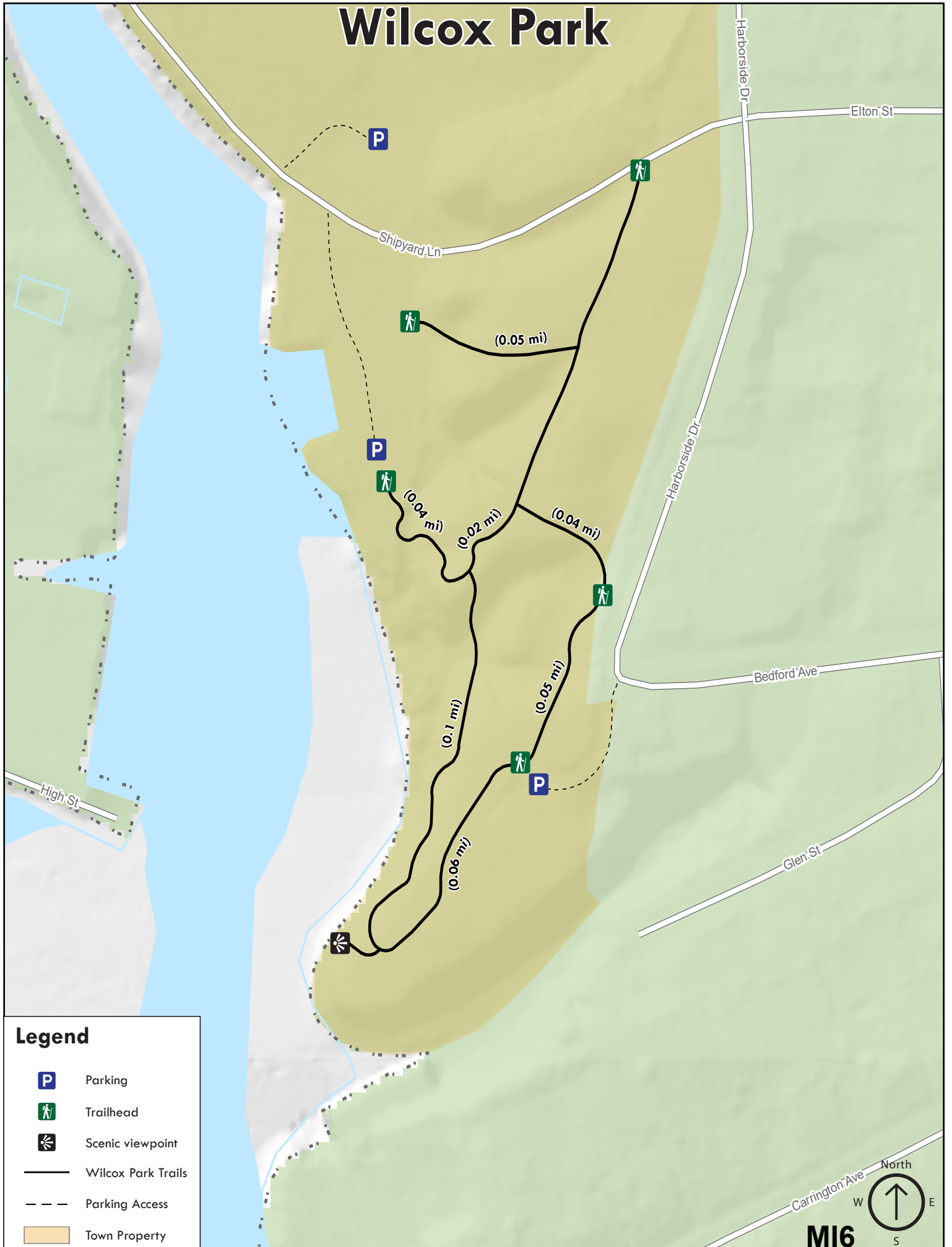


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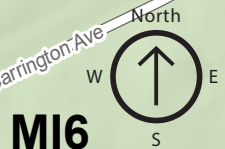


# Wilcox Park



## Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- Scenic viewpoint
- Wilcox Park Trails
- Parking Access
- Town Property



# Silver Sands State Park

The Silver Sands walk includes about 2 miles of walking trails with beautiful views of Long Island Sound and Charles Island. The surface is mostly level consisting of gravel, asphalt pavements, wooden walkways and natural dirt trails. The walk includes a 900-foot long pedestrian bridge crossing a restored tidal marsh and dunes. The boardwalk along the Silver Sands Beach is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile long. In addition to recreational beach and fishing activities the coastal boardwalk is a favorite location for wildlife viewing and walking.

Over 200 species of birds are seen at Silver Sands. They use this important area for nesting, wintering, and foraging areas during spring and fall migration. Many of the birds seen here are also protected by Federal and CT Endangered Species Acts. Many butterflies, several rare plants, and other wildlife can also be seen during walks in this area.

Charles Island is one of the three largest wading bird rookeries in CT. This Audubon Important Bird Area (IBA) site is well situated in relation to important foraging areas at Wheeler Marsh and Stratford Great Meadows. Charles Island is a designated Natural Area Preserve and a Long Island Sound Stewardship Site by DEEP due to its significant wildlife and coastal resources.

Visitors should respect all posted closures to help protect these unique resources.



Photo by Steve Johnson, City of Milford

## Trail Description:

### Easy Walk or Hike

Miles of natural beach are preserved for free public use in Milford at Silver Sands State Park. If the tides are right you can also walk out to Charles Island - the "thrice cursed island" and home to many legends and artifacts of Connecticut history. Walking is a pleasure along 3 miles of wide and well crafted boardwalk. The beaches are rocky and rough but, low tide allows for wading between sandbars.

Total Trails distance is approx. 2.3 miles

## Directions and Parking:

Take I-95 North or South to exit 35, Schoolhouse Road then south to Route 1 (Bridgeport Avenue). Turn left onto Route 1 then right at the first traffic light (Silver Sands Park Way). Follow Silver Sands Park Way across Meadowside Road and continue downhill to the main parking area.

## Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Swimming and fishing are permitted. A lifeguard is seasonally on duty. Portable toilets are seasonally available. Charles Island is closed May through September to all public use. Dogs and bicycling are not allowed on the boardwalk or beach. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.



Photo by Steve Johnson, City of Milford

Total Trails Length: Approx. 2.3 miles



**For more information about this location, contact:**

DEEP State Parks Division  
(860) 424-3200



# Silver Sands State Park

## Silver Sands State Park

### Walnut Public Beach

#### Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  Restrooms
-  Silver Sands Trails
-  Wetlands
-  Town Property
-  State Property

