

Begin by walking west on a State Forest woods road. Almost immediately, the trail passes through the remnants of a red pine plantation. Soon, near a group of large rocks, the trail splits: one branch leads south, the other continues along the woods road. South, the trail forms a loop and rejoins the woods road 500 feet ahead (which then proceeds on to join the Blinshed Ridge Trail).

Follow the loop trail counterclockwise by proceeding straight west along the woods road. In a grove of pines, just before reaching a stream crossing, the loop trail turns left and follows the stream to its junction with the Neck River. Straight ahead, the woods road trail continues west where, in 800 feet, it joins the Blinshed Ridge Trail.

Take the Neck River Trail loop south (left) along the tributary stream. For some distance the trail will follow wetlands on the right delineated by skunk cabbage, false helebore and spicebush. Marsh marigolds (cowslips) line the margins of the flowing streams.

The trail passes through thickets of grey dogwood, young black birch and some wild azalea, high bush blueberry and witch-hazel; excellent cover for birds.

Where a large beech tree leans out over the river, the trail swings east (left) along the southern end of the loop near the State Forest border (indicated by yellow blazes, metal tags, and eventually by a barbed-wire fence and stonewall). The trail bears north again where the stonewall ends, then very shortly, splits to form a small loop. The path ahead (left branch) leads to the junction by the big rocks.

Going to the right around the small loop, pass some very large tulip-poplar and some yellow birch trees, and turn north along a stone wall. Continue by the edge of a wetland to the "cross-over" trail junction. Bear right, past a few red pine trees to the woods road junction near the large rocks, and then by turning right, return to the trailhead.

Directions and Parking:

This trail is best reached via Opening Hill Road. Opening Hill Road can be accessed off Durham Road (Route 79) directly from the north or from the south from Warpas Road, to Winterhill Road and finally connecting to Opening Hill. Continue on Opening Hill past The Country Day School. Parking and the beginning of the trail will be on the right.

Permitted Activities:

The trails areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste. Contact the State Forest HQ for other activities allowed on their sites.



Hiking



Pets on Leash

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
State Forest: Eastern District HQ

www.madisonlandtrust.org
(860) 295-9523

Questions regarding this brochure can be addressed to
South Central Regional Council of Governments
Phone: (203) 234-7555/Fax: (203) 234-9850
E-mail: trails@scrcog.org

Scan QR Code to access the South Central Regional Council of Governments Recreational Trails Webpage



Recreational Trails South Central Connecticut

Neck River Trail



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Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG










Trail Description:

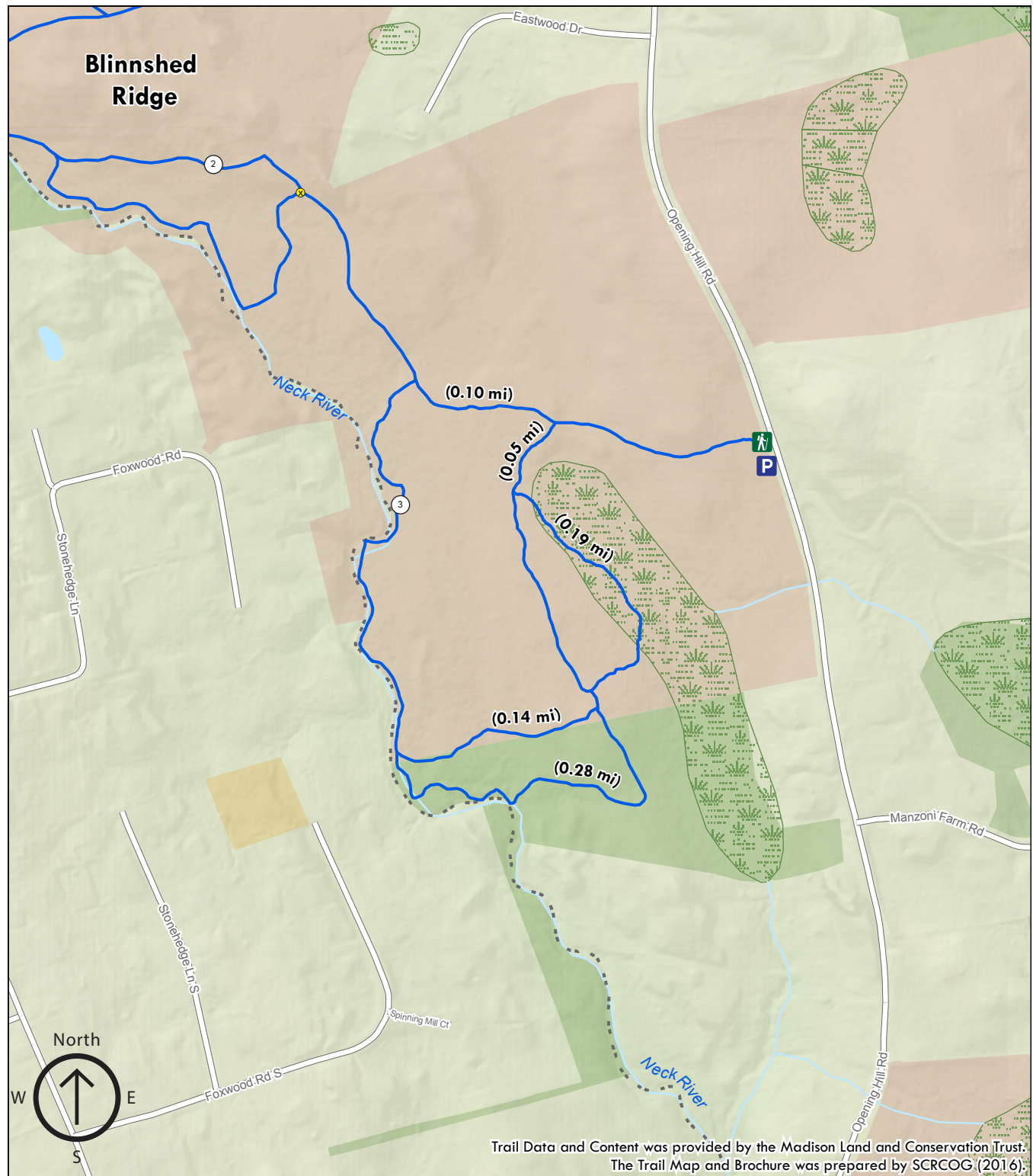
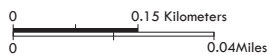
Easy Hike

The Neck River Trail passes through forest communities typical of our region. Special features include several ridges alternating with narrow valley wetlands, a massive rock outcrop, and a beautiful section along the Neck River. There is an opportunity to extend the hike by joining either Blinshed Loop or Blinshed Ridge.

Total trail distance is approx. 0.76 miles

Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  Trail Junction
-  Blinshed Ridge Trail
-  Neck River Trail
-  Wetlands
-  Land Trust Property
-  State Property
-  Town Property



Trail Data and Content was provided by the Madison Land and Conservation Trust.
The Trail Map and Brochure was prepared by SCRCOG (2016).