

The topography of the Uplands is determined by undulating bedrock, which forms very close ridges and plateaus oriented north-south. These features influence the flora and fauna of these areas. The dry plateaus and rocky ridges have thin soil, so rainwater quickly drains downhill, leaving little moisture behind. But slow-growing chestnut and red oaks, along with some beech and red maples, create a lacy canopy overhead. The fruits of these trees offer a high calorie source of fats and carbohydrates that help deer put on weight as colder weather approaches. Turkeys scratch and strut here, and chipmunks whistle as they scurry along old stone walls to store provisions for the winter. Squirrels and white-footed mice live comfortably on the acorns, and hickory and beech nuts, dropped from above. But the web of life in the Uplands allows birds and rodents to fall prey to coyotes and their smaller relatives, the foxes. Numerous rocky overhangs offer ideal den sites for these canines.

Trees on the plateaus do suffer from exposure and the dry conditions. The death of some benefits the many woodpeckers that work on these snags. The cavities they create provide nesting sites for themselves and others, such as chickadees. Fallen trees and logs provide dens for opossums and raccoons. Just below the trees, mountain laurel, witch hazel, and highbush blueberries make the most of any remaining moisture. And of course, the deer love to browse on the blueberries.

From the high areas, slopes divert run-off into streams. In the northern parcel, three beautiful creeks flow into the Neck River. Likewise, three smaller streams also make their way to the river in the southern property. These inclines limit shrub growth and result in more open areas. The cracks and crevices of many rocky outcrops offer shelter for bats and snakes. Increased moisture gives rise to a greater variety of trees. The slopes afford them some protection, so fewer snags develop.

Directions and Parking:

From the Route 80 circle take the exit north, towards Durham. In about a third of a mile turn left onto Princess Drive. The entrance will be on the left in about a third of a mile. Parking is on the side of the road.

Permitted Activities:

The trail areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste.



Hiking



Pets on Leash

For more information about this trail 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 Uplands Preserve North



Madison, CT

Neck River Uplands Preserve North

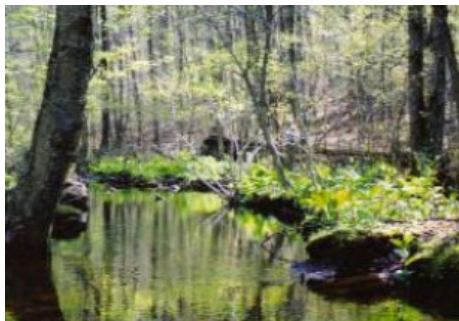


Photo by Madison Land Trust

Trail Description:

Moderate Hike

The Northern portion of the Neck River Uplands consists of trails that can be combined to create a longer or shorter hike. One can also continue on to the Southern portion of the Neck River Uplands.

Total trails distance is approx. 2.42 miles

Legend

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Parking | Wetlands |
| Trailhead | Land Trust Property |
| Glacial Plucking | RWA Property |
| Scenic Viewpoint | Stone Wall |
| X-Red (Connector) | Kiosk Station |
| X-Blue (Connectors) | |
| Red (Joan O'Neill Trail) | |
| Orange (Annyka Harper Trail) | |
| Blue (Neck River Uplands North Loop) | |
| Blue (Neck River Uplands South Trail) | |

