

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.

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

### 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.



Hiking



Pets on Leash



Bicycling

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

Branford Land Trust, Inc.  
P.O. Box 254, Branford, CT 06405  
(203) 483-5263  
[www.branfordlandtrust.org](http://www.branfordlandtrust.org)

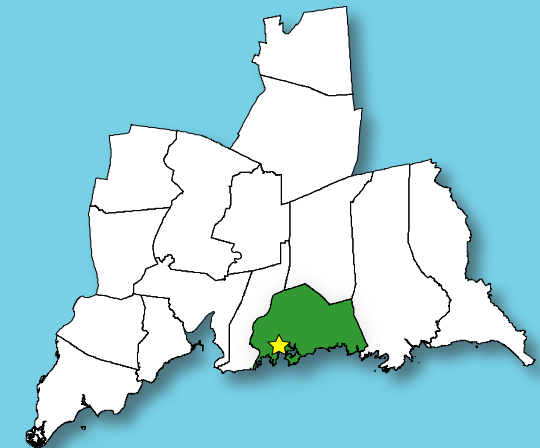
Questions regarding this brochure can be addressed to  
South Central Regional Council of Governments  
Phone: (203) 234-7555/Fax: (203) 234-9850  
E-mail: [trails@scrcog.org](mailto:trails@scrcog.org)

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



## Recreational Trails South Central Connecticut

# Short Beach Preserve



**Branford, CT**

# Short Beach Preserve

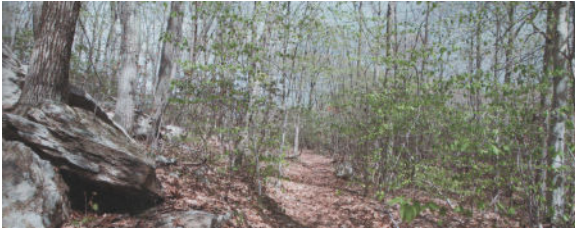


Photo by Branford Land Trust








## Trail Description:

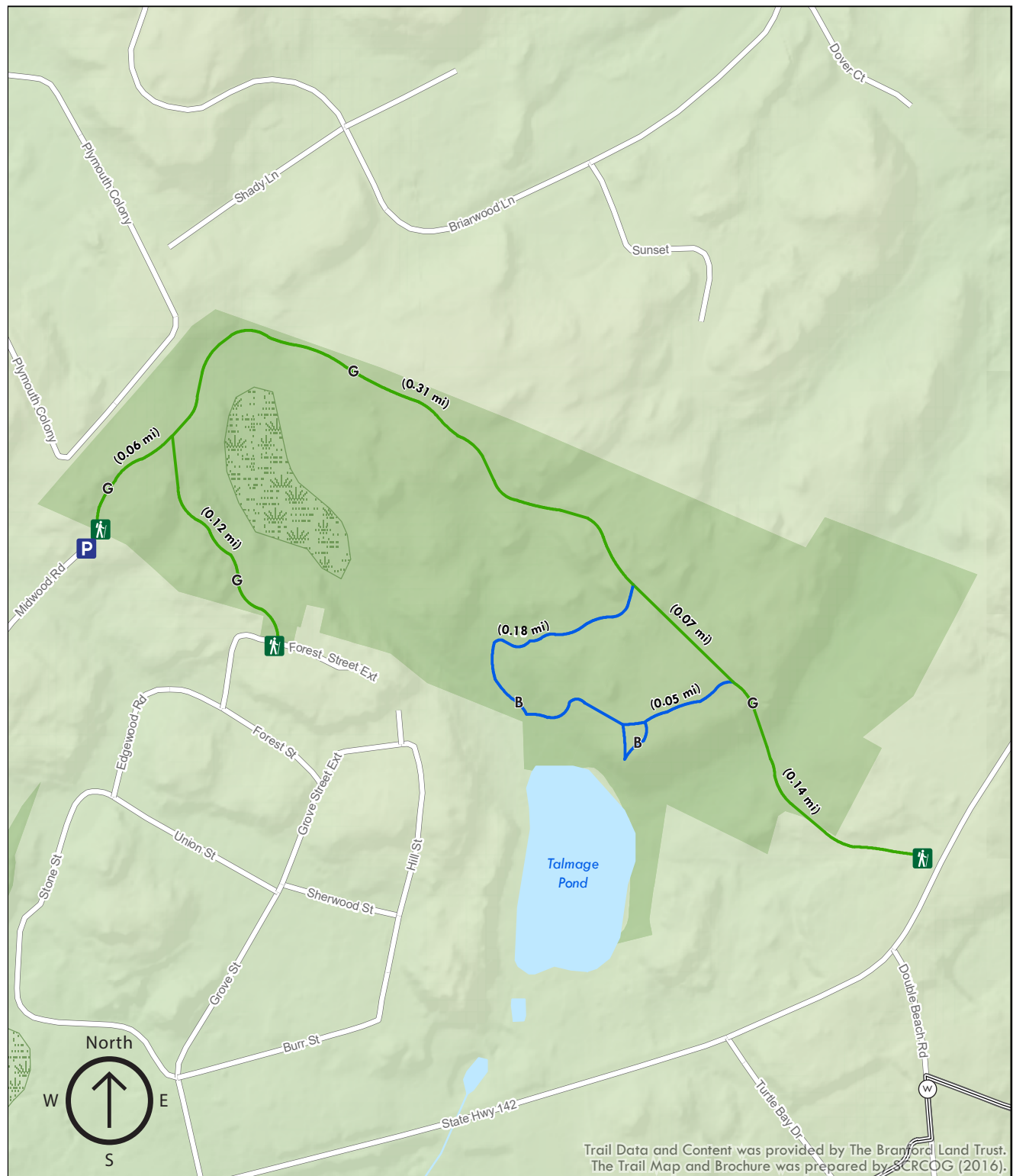
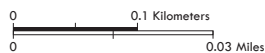
### Easy Hike

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

Total trails distance is approx. 0.98 miles

## Legend

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



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