

St. Francis Woods is a 1 mile loop trail that offers exposure to a variety of natural settings. It provides an excellent experience for a family outing, although it is not suitable for very small children. The trail passes through a lowland mesic forest, abuts a valley floodplain and a beautiful stream, then ascends to and progresses along a rocky ridge before descending once more to the lower valley.

St. Francis Woods offers a peaceful environment of predominantly native species. Understory shrubs include spicebush, sweet pepperbush, witch hazel, and wild azalea. Native trees include swamp red maple, beech, hickories, large chestnut oak, and some sugar maple. Mountain laurel thickets arch over sections of the trail and are in full bloom in June.

The walk can be extended to include a visit to the Donnelly Memorial bench near old West Side Cemetery. The Memorial is accessed via a path at the end of the St. Francis Woods Road cul-de-sac which ascends through the woods and then quickly emerges into a mowed area. The path continues along the west side of the cemetery and leads to a sitting bench. The bench was placed in honor of Richard D. Donnelly a founding member of the Madison Land Trust and its first vice-president. The West Side Cemetery, founded in 1754, still bears the names of some of Madison's residents. The first person buried in the cemetery was Demetrius Crompton who was killed by a falling tree limb.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

Directions and Parking:

For the St. Francis Woods: take Route 80 and turn south on Race Hill Road, then travel west on Bradley Corners Road to St. Francis Woods Road. Park along the road near the trailhead 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

St. Francis Woods

Madison, CT

St. Francis Woods



Photo by the Madison Land Conservation Trust

Trail Description:

Easy Walk

St. Francis woods is an easy, mile long walk. The trail goes through a mesic forest and can be extended to the Donnelly Memorial bench near old West Side Cemetery.

Total trail length is approx. 1 mile

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|------------------|
| | Parking | | Scenic viewpoint |
| | Trailhead | | Trail Sign |
| | Cemetery | | |
| | St. Francis Woods Trail | | |
| | Wetlands | | |
| | Land Trust Property | | |

