

# Maltby Lakes

## Regional Water Authority Permit Required

A Regional Water Authority (RWA) Recreation Area, these peaceful lakes dotted with tiny islands have long been admired by passers-by on busy Route 34. When the Maltby Lakes were opened for hiking, fishing, and bicycling in 1994, this fulfilled the dream of their designer and namesake. Back in the 1860's, Caleb Maltby had plans to combine water supply and public recreation at the reservoirs he created for the Fair Haven Water Company. Only minutes from downtown New Haven, you'll find that you're sharing the solitude with many deer, wild turkey, a variety of birds and other animals.

The Mark Schaefer Trail encircles most of the Authority's land surrounding the Maltby Lakes and provides access to all other trails. It climbs the ridge west of Maltby Lake #3. The power line clearing provides an excellent view of the New Haven skyline and is abundant with mountain laurel, which blooms in mid-June. The Spruce Trail, a shortcut on the western side of the Schaefer Trail, will bring you through a Norway spruce tree stand, avoiding the power lines.

There are several short trails, each with their own unique features. The Evergreen Trail connects Lakes 1 and 2. It circles back to the Mark Schaefer Trail in a shady grove of white pine and spruce trees planted after the 1938 hurricane. The Mil Deprey Trail passes interesting ledge outcrops of phyllite. Phyllite is a metamorphic rock intermediate between slate and schist. All three rocks are formed by compressing lake bottom mud under thousands of feet of other sediments. Slate has clearly visible layering and schist has crystals visible to the naked eye. Phyllite has neither characteristic, but its resistance to erosion is one reason why the land around the Maltby Lakes is so hilly.

The Tulip Tree Trail is a short but rugged loop, named for the tall, straight trees common along some of the best soils in the area. The 1904 Trail is named for the year in which the oldest white pine trees along the west sides of the path were planted by students of the of the far west.



Photo by RWA Photo Contest Winner Terry Kennen

### Trail Description:

#### Easy to Moderate Hike

Maltby Lakes features gentle rolling hills with picturesque lake views throughout. One has many trails to choose from on their hike.

Total trails length is approx. 4.87 miles

### Directions and Parking:

From the Wilbur Cross Parkway (Route 15) take exit 57. Off of the exit head east on Derby Avenue (Route 34) towards New Haven. The Maltby Lakes entrance and parking lot will be on an access road in about 3 miles.

### Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

This site is for passive use only. No mechanized vehicles. Hiking and bicycling only. Bicycling is permitted from April 15th to December 31st. Bikers can ride on designated trails only and must yield to all hikers. State fishing license required for shore fishing. Wading and swimming are prohibited. Dogs are not permitted.



Photo by RWA Photo Contest Winner Ron Guerrucci

**Total Trails Length:** *Approx. 4.87 miles.*

**Purple (Spruce Trail):** 0.14 miles. Easy Hike

**White (Mark Schaefer Trail):** 2.91 miles. Easy to Moderate Hike

**Orange (Tulip Tree Trail):** 0.39 miles. Easy to Moderate Hike

**Yellow (Mil Deprey Trail):** 0.49 miles. Easy to Moderate Hike

**Red (Evergreen Trail):** 0.07 miles. Easy Hike

**Blue (Fishing Spur Trails):** 0.42 miles. Easy Hike

**Green (1904 Trail):** 0.13 miles. Easy Hike

**Unblazed Trails:** 0.32 miles. Easy to Moderate Hike



**Claire C. Bennett  
Recreation  
Program**  
Regional Water Authority

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

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