

Young's Pond & Bob's Woods

Alden M. Young of Waterbury, a backer of the shoreline trolley system, was also the primary developer of the Pine Orchard neighborhood as a summer colony in the early 20th century. In 1971, the company that he founded gave much of his estate to the Town to create Young's Pond Park. The park contains a small pond (popular for ice skating), woods, and a baseball field. Old carriage roads and vigorous stands of planted rhododendrons are among the remnants of the estate that give this property a distinctive feeling of a bygone era. In contrast to these reminders of human activity, deed restrictions explicitly forbid additional manmade structures, even benches.



Photo by Branford Land Trust

In 2004, a for sale sign appeared at the southern end of the pond; land that many had thought to be part of the park was actually privately owned. Park lovers were distressed, but the day was saved by the Pritzker-Schwartz-Vlock family foundation, which bought the property and donated it to the Branford Land Trust. The parcel was named Bob's Woods in honor of Robert A. Pritzker, the father of one of the foundation members.



Photo by Branford Land Trust

Directions and Parking:

Young's Pond and Bob's Woods are located off of Route 146 across from the Pine Orchard Golf Course. There is a parking lot with plenty of parking.

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.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

Easy Hike

Young's Pond Park and Bob's Woods is great for leisurely walks with great views of Young's Pond. There is also access from these trails to The Branford Trail that grants access to other Land Trust trails further more challenging hikes for those who desire the extra distance.

Total Trails Length: approx. 2.01 miles

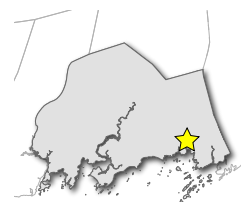
Red Trails: 1.40 miles

The Branford Trail: 0.61 miles



For more information about this walk contact:

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