## **Short Beach Preserve**

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.



Photo by Branford Land Trust

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

## **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.

## **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.

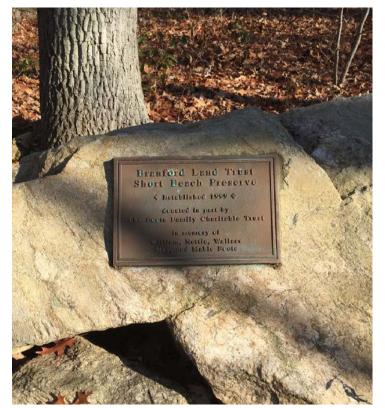


Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

**Total Trails Length:** approx. 0.98 miles **Green Trails:** 0.70 miles

Blue Trails: 0.28 miles



For more information about this walk contact: Branford Land Trust, Inc. P.O. Box 254, Branford, CT 06405 (203) 393-2100 ext:127



