

North Farms Trails

North Branford was originally part of the Totoket settlement (purchased in 1638 from the Indian chief Montowese). The Totoket area was bounded on the south by Long Island Sound, on the west by the Stony River (Farm River) and the Great Pond (Lake Saltonstall). At that time, the northerly areas of the Branford/Totoket settlement were primarily cleared for orchards and farming and were known as "North Farms." North Branford was incorporated as a town in 1831.

As a lasting commemorative of the nation's bicentennial in 1976, a 77-acre tract of land on the Branford River was purchased for a park and, in a town-wide contest, named North Farms, the original designation of the area. North Farms Park has three primary trails with varying degrees of difficulty.

The Yellow Trail is designed to be a safety trail that can be used by all ages with little or no hiking skills needed. The trail runs northeast to the Branford River. Once across the river, this trail runs north to south. The Orange Trail is also a relatively easy trail. This is a short trail located in the northeastern part of the park. It connects the northern portions of the Yellow and White Trails. This trail virtually divides the park in half.

The White Trail is the most difficult trail and requires some expertise in hiking skills. The trail runs north along the perimeter of the park and leads to the Branford River where there is no way to cross at the present time. The trail is picked up on the northeastern side of the river and intersects with the northern end of the Yellow Trail and continues southeasterly along the perimeter. At the eastern point it intersects with the Orange Trail and then continues to Valley Road.

This area has a steep incline. The trail then turns to the southwest and descends on a steep hill which leads to the area of the old dams where the trail dead ends at the Branford River. This is also the intersection of the Yellow Trail at its southern point. On the southwestern corner of the park, the White Trail heads north through moderate woods and climbs a steep upgrade to the southern end of the open field.

Trail Description:

Easy Hike

The North Farms trail is a nice hike through the woods of North Branford. The trail begins in North Farms Park where there is a playground, sports fields and a picnic pavilion.

Total trail distance is approx. 1.12 miles

Directions and Parking:

I-95 to Exit 56 (Route 146, Leetes Island Road, Stony Creek, Branford). Take Leetes Island Road (Route 146) north. Go to the traffic light, the USS Chowder Pot restaurant is directly in front of you. Stay straight onto School Ground Road. Follow School Ground Road until you come to a 'T'-intersection with Route 139 (North Branford Road). Take a right. The entrance to North Farms Park will be roughly ½ mile to 1 mile on your right.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

This property is for passive use only. No wheeled vehicles are permitted. Picnicking is available in the pavilion. The trail is for hiking only. Dogs are permitted on leash. Please bag and remove any dog waste.

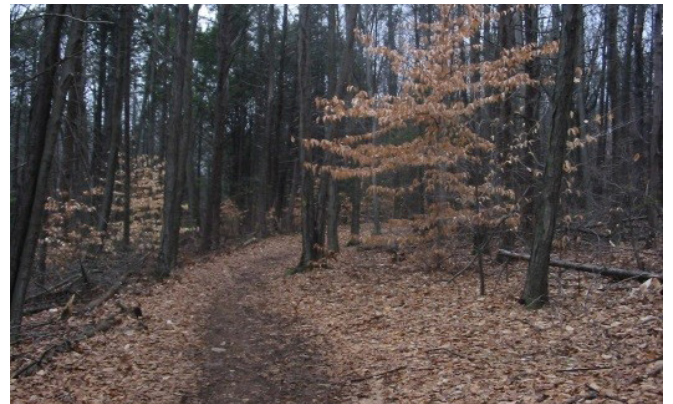


Photo by North Branford Recreation Department

Total Trails Length: Approx. 1.12 miles

Yellow Trail: 0.54 miles. Easy Hike

Red Trail: 0.19 miles. Easy Hike

Orange Trail: 0.26 miles. Easy Hike

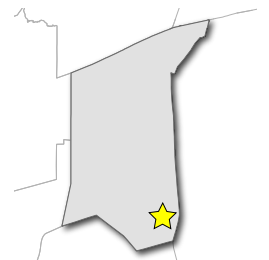
Orange/Yellow Trail: 1.20 miles. Easy Hike

White Trail: 0.47 miles. Easy Hike



For more information about this location, contact:

Town of North Branford
Parks and Recreation
(203) 315-6017



North Farms Trails

