

The Branford Trail: Pine Orchard

The 30-mile Branford Trail is a unique trail that borders a majority of the town's perimeter. The white circle blazed trail passes through the shoreline, wetlands, many town parks, northerly woodlands, and many Branford Land Trust properties. The trail is separated into eight sections that begins and ends at a public road with space for parking. Every home in Branford is within 15-minutes walking time of a trail. The entire Branford trail is best walked in a counter-clockwise directions.

This 2.62 mile section of the Branford Trail features the Pine Orchard area of Branford. This area was permanently settled in the 1800s. Pine Orchard comprises several cottage colonies, some handsome estates, summer hotels, and the eighteen-hole course of the Pine Orchard Golf Club.

The trail passes behind the Pine Orchard Association building on Pine Orchard Road and travels through Young's Pond Park. In the park, there are several small loop trails that take you through the park and around Young's Pond. At Blackstone Avenue, the trail climbs a ridge to the left with good views and then descends to travel north along the base of a cliff. You can avoid this ascent and descent by staying on Blackstone Ave and rejoining the Branford Trail just before the railroad bridge.

The trail crosses the Tilcon freight train line that carries trap rock stone from the quarry in North Branford to the Tilcon dock where barges are loaded with the stone. From the Tilcon line, the trail follows the old trolley line to Stony Creek. An unblazed side path can be taken to Snake Island. The blazed trail loops up through the Vedder Property which takes you passed the Vedder Monument, across Pleasant Point Road, and then down again to the old trolley line.

Photo by CT Department of Environmental Protection

Directions and Parking:

Parking for this portion of the Branford Trail can be found along the access road to the Pine Orchard Pet Lodge or at the Pine Orchard Association building. This area is best reached via I-95 to Montowese Street (Route 146) to Pine Orchard Road.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

This trail follows public and private roads. When adjacent to private property please respect resident's privacy. Dogs are permitted on leash. Please bag and pick up all dog waste.

Design for the Logo and Patch by Ralph Fuller

Easy Hike

This section of the Branford Trail also includes the Branford Trolley Trail. This trail is a 480 foot long by 4 foot wide footbridge along the path of an abandoned historic trolley track. The bridge connects to a popular existing nature walk. Visitors to the Branford trolley track footbridge can expect to see numerous shorebirds in the tidal estuary, feeding in the marsh or wading in the shallow waters of the tidal creek.

Total trails length is approx. 2.62 miles



For more information about this walk contact:

Town of Branford
Parks and Open Space Authority
(203) 488-8394 ext:120



The Branford Trail: Stony Creek

The 30-mile Branford Trail is a unique trail that borders a majority of the town's perimeter. The white circle blazed trail passes through the shoreline, wetlands, many town parks, northerly woodlands, and many Branford Land Trust properties. The trail is separated into eight sections that begin and end at a public road with space for parking. Every home in Branford is within 15-minutes walking time of a trail. The entire Branford trail is best walked in a counterclockwise direction.

This 4.08 mile section of the Branford Trail features the Stony Creek area of Branford. Stony Creek is a little fishing village and summer resort that has been permanently settled since the 1800s and is nestled among the inlets of the Sound. The trail then hugs the Guilford town line as it moves northward.



Photo by Branford Recreation

The trail passes through the Stony Creek area on Thimble Island Rd and turns left onto Buena Vista Rd. After entering the woods, there is a short-cut alternative (white circle blaze with a red dot, saves about 1/2 a mile) over to Jarvis Creek.

The trail crosses Jarvis Creek on a now unused tidal gate and continues onto Leetes Island Road (Route 146). At the railroad underpass, the trail turns north through the woods and over several hills to the Stony Creek Quarry Preserve parking lot. The trail also passes through some wetlands which may generally be muddy, especially during the rainy season.



Photo from SCRCOG Archives

Directions and Parking:

Parking for this portion of the Branford Trail is at the ball field on West Point Road or around the flag triangle on Thimble Island Road. Both are located near the center of Stony Creek. The center can be reached from Route 146 (Leetes Island Road).

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

This trail follows public and private roads. When adjacent to private property please respect resident's privacy. Dogs are permitted on leash. Please bag and pick up all dog waste.

Design for the Logo and Patch by Ralph Fuller

Easy to Moderate Hike

The Thimble Islands, named for the thimbleberry, a relative of the black raspberry, are an archipelago of small islands off the coast of Branford's Stony Creek area. They were known to the Mattabeset Indians as "the beautiful sea rocks" and they consist of a jumble of granite rocks, ledges, and outcroppings resulting from glaciations. The islands number between 100 and 365 depending on where the line is drawn between an island and a mere rock.

Total Trails Length: approx. 4.08 miles



For more information about this walk contact:

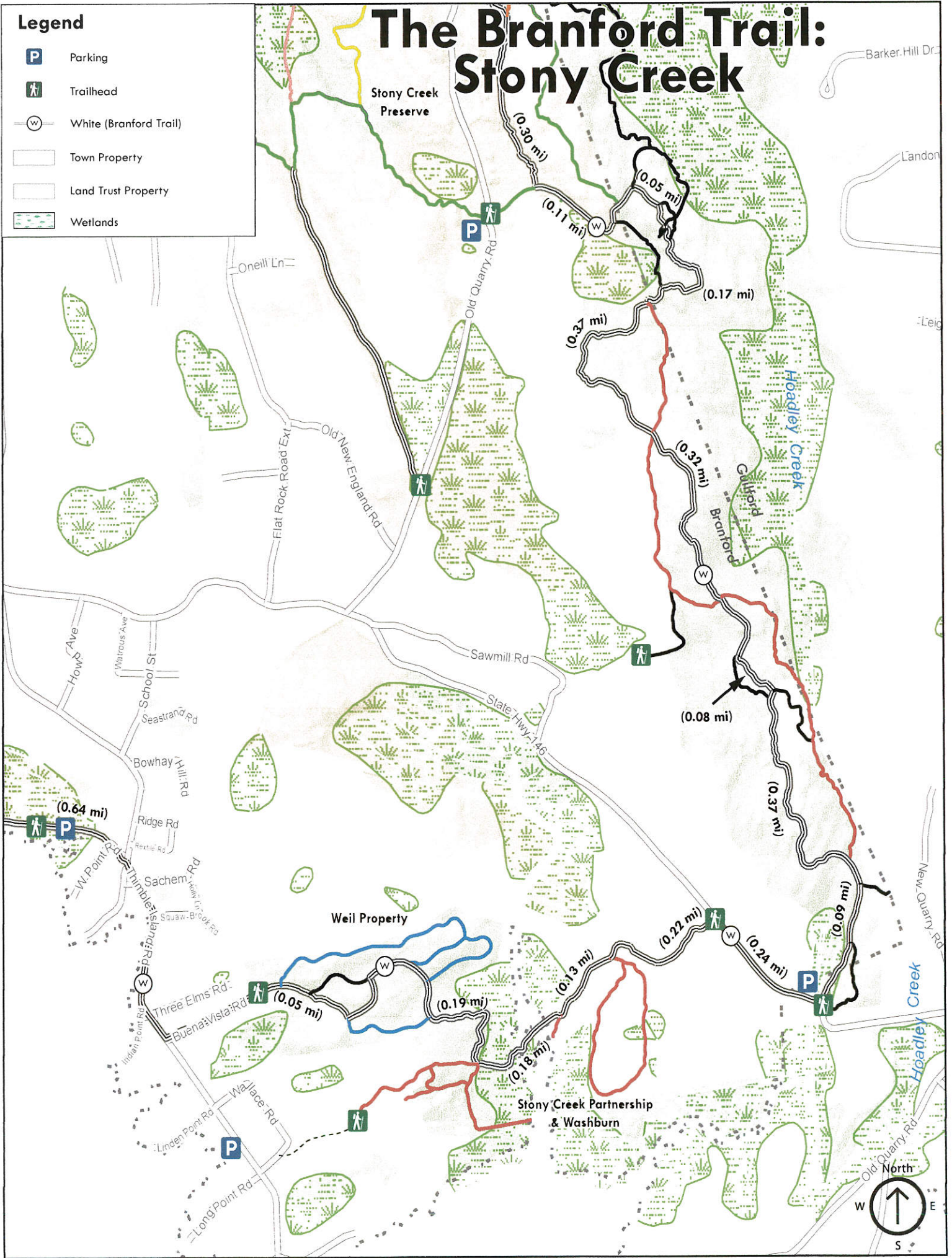
Town of Branford
Parks and open Space Authority
(203) 488-8394 ext:120



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- White (Branford Trail)
- Town Property
- Land Trust Property
- Wetlands

The Branford Trail: Stony Creek



4 The Branford Trail: Quarry - Westwoods

The 30-mile Branford Trail is a unique trail that borders a majority of the town's perimeter. The white circle blazed trail passes through the shoreline, wetlands, many town parks, northerly woodlands, and many Branford Land Trust properties. The trail is separated into eight sections that begins and ends at a public road with space for parking. Every home in Branford is within 15-minutes walking time of a trail. The entire Branford trail is best walked in a counter-clockwise direction.

Photo by Chet Bloomquist

This 3.3 mile section of the Branford Trail features the Stony Creek Quarry Preserve and travels along the Branford/Guilford boundary entering Guilford for short portion of the trail. The trail starts at the Quarry parking lot, but mostly then travels to the east of the Quarry. The trail travels through a ravine and then turns eastward into Guilford. The trail turns south briefly, passes through a narrow gorge (shown below) and then turns north again on Granite Road near The Gables (a retirement village). A special feature of the trail (shown reverse) is an area where there is a collection of "selectman's stones." Historically the First Selectman of each town would annually walk the town boundary. A marker was left with the date and the person's initials. There are additional trails within the 450+ acre Stony Creek Quarry Preserve which also connects to Guilford's extensive Westwoods trail system.



Photo by Chet Bloomquist

Directions and Parking:

Take Stony Creek Road (Route 146) to Quarry Road to reach the Stony Creek Quarry Preserve. Parking is on Quarry Road at the start of the trail just after passing through the wetlands.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

This trail follows public and private roads. When adjacent to private property please respect resident's privacy. Dogs are permitted on leash. Please bag and pick up all dog waste.

Design for the Logo and Patch by Ralph Fuller

Easy Hike to Moderate Hike

Quarrying of famous Stony Creek granite originated in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The quarry has been in continuous operation since before the Civil War, and its Stony Creek panels formed the base of the Statue of Liberty, Grand Central Terminal in New York, the cladding for the Brooklyn Bridge, and South Station in Boston. In 1978, Stony Creek granite was chosen by architect Philip Johnson as the exterior veneer on the AT&T headquarters in New York, which led to the reemergence of the use of architectural granite.

Total trails length is approx. 3.3 miles

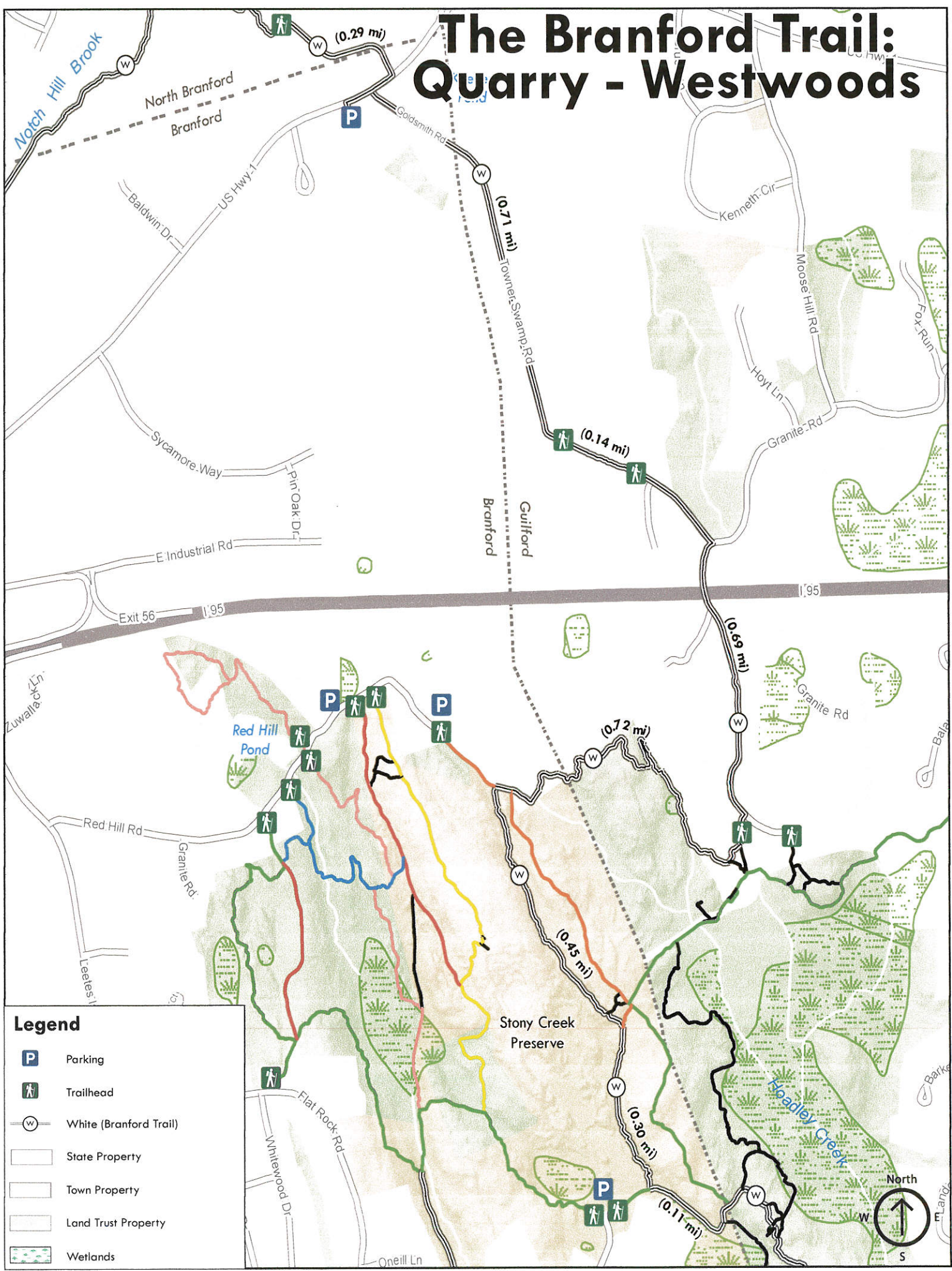


For more information about this walk contact:

Town of Branford
Parks and Open Space Authority
(203) 488-8394 ext:120



The Branford Trail: Quarry - Westwoods



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- White (Branford Trail)
- State Property
- Town Property
- Land Trust Property
- Wetlands



5 The Branford Trail: North Boundary

The 30-mile Branford Trail is a unique trail that borders a majority of the town's perimeter. The white circle blazed trail passes through the shoreline, wetlands, many town parks, northerly woodlands, and many Branford Land Trust properties. The trail is separated into eight sections that begins and ends at a public road with space for parking. Every home in Branford is within 15-minutes walking time of a trail. The entire Branford trail is best walked in a counter-clockwise direction.

This 3.3 mile section of the Branford Trail features the northern town boundary and enters North Branford for a portion of the trail. This trail follows Notch Hill Brook and the Branford River for part of the way, with a railroad tracks crossing, and through wetland areas that may be muddy during rainy season.

The trail starts adjacent to a Methodist Church. The northern area is predominantly wooded with dense deciduous forest. The trail passes through Evergreen Woods (a retirement care facility) property and then turns east along the slope of the Branford River coming out at Woodwinds. After crossing the river on a road bridge, bear left through a parking lot. Shortly, the trail diverges from the river, crosses North Branford Road (Route 139), passes the Flax Mill soccer field, and travels through Branford Land Trust property to Northford Road.

A special feature adjacent to this hike is the town border marker. This large triangular concrete block shows where the town lines of Branford, North Branford, and Guilford converge. An initial for each; B for Branford, NB for North Branford, and G for Guilford indicates the direction of each town. The marker is located just east of the start of this trail.

Photo by CT DEEP

Directions and Parking:

Parking for this portion of the Branford Trail is at the corner of Goldsmith Road (Towner Swamp Road) and East Main Street (Route 1). This area of Branford is best reached via I-95 from exit 56 (Leetes Island Road) to Route 1.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

This trail follows public and private roads. When adjacent to private property please respect resident's privacy. Dogs are permitted on leash. Please bag and pick up all dog waste.

Design for the Logo and Patch by Ralph Fuller

Easy Hike

The North Boundary Section of the Branford Trail starts in the north east corner of Branford and immediately heads north into North Branford towards the Evergreen Retirement Community and then enters the woods. This sections switches back and forth between wooded hikes and short walks on public roads. Trailheads on the map signify the switch from wooded hikes to section of paved roads.

Total trail length is approx. 3.3 miles



For more information about this walk contact:

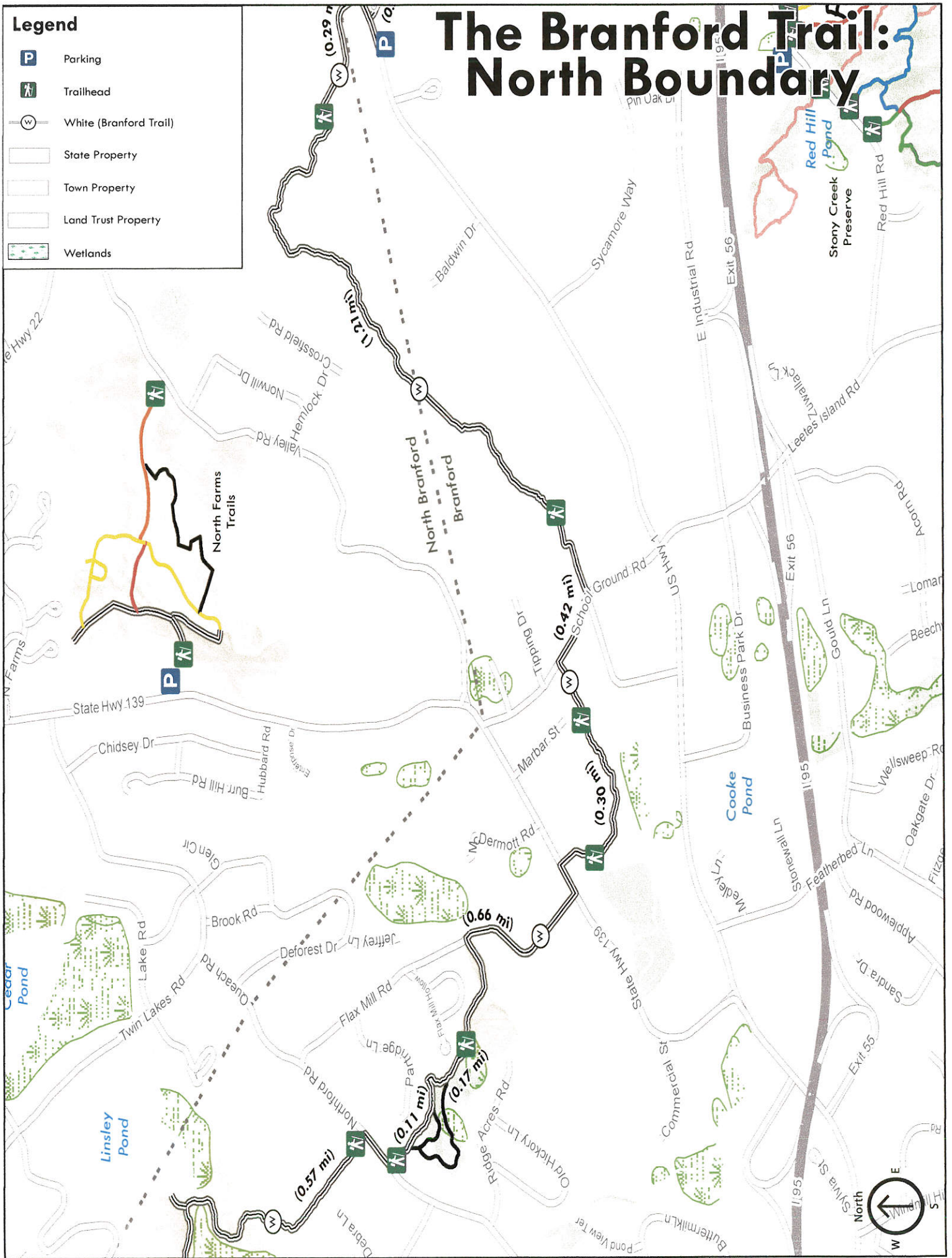
Town of Branford
Parks and Open Space Authority
(203) 488-8394 ext:120



The Branford Trail: North Boundary

Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- White (Branford Trail)
- State Property
- Town Property
- Land Trust Property
- Wetlands



The Branford Trail: Pisgah Brook

The 30-mile Branford Trail is a unique trail that borders a majority of the town's perimeter. The white circle blazed trail passes through the shoreline, wetlands, many town parks, northerly woodlands, and many Branford Land Trust properties. The trail is separated into eight sections that begin and end at a public road with space for parking. Every home in Branford is within 15-minutes walking time of a trail. The entire Branford trail is best walked in a counterclockwise directions.

This 4.2 mile section of the Branford Trail features the Pisgah Brook and travels along the northern boundary of Branford through the Pisgah Brook Preserve. Walk east on Northford Road (toward North Branford) and then turn left to follow the trail northward into the woods. The trail crosses the Linsley Lake outlet stream, Queach Brook. Linsley Lake (also known as Linsley Pond) is famous in the field of ecology for the studies done there from the 1930s until the late 1970s by the noted Yale biologist George Evelyn Hutchinson.

The trail then follows Pisgah Brook upstream from Linsley Lake through an important wetland watershed area and a unique resource for a town of Branford's population. The trail continues to Brushy Plain Road, then crosses the road to end just past Lidyhites Pond. The pond is owned by Yale University and used for ecological studies. The trail stops at a stone wall (and yellow blazing) which signifies the start of the Regional Water Authority's property.

The next portion of the Branford Trail is the RWA's Lake Saltonstall property. Access for this part of the Branford Trail is for RWA permit holders only. Hikers with a permit may proceed onto Lake Saltonstall trails and then turn left to exit via the Hikers Parking Lot on Hosley Avenue.



Photo by CT Department of Environmental Protection

Directions and Parking:

A parking lot for this portion of the Branford Trail is off Northford Road, about 0.1 mile past Brook Hills (aka Brookhills) Road coming from Rte 1 in Branford, or about 0.2 mile past Flax Mill Road coming from Twin Lakes Rd in North Branford. Alternatively, on-street parking is available along Brook Hills Road.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

This trail follows public and private roads. When adjacent to private property please respect resident's privacy. Dogs are permitted on leash. Please bag and pick up all dog waste.



Design for the Logo and Patch by Ralph Fuller

Easy Hike

The Pisgah Brook section of the Branford Trail offers a nice hike and scenic views of some of Branford's lakes and ponds. There are many opportunities to see various types of wildlife. Please be aware that only permit holders can hike on RWA property.

Trails Length: approx. 3.10 miles
(Mill Plain to Brushy Plain)



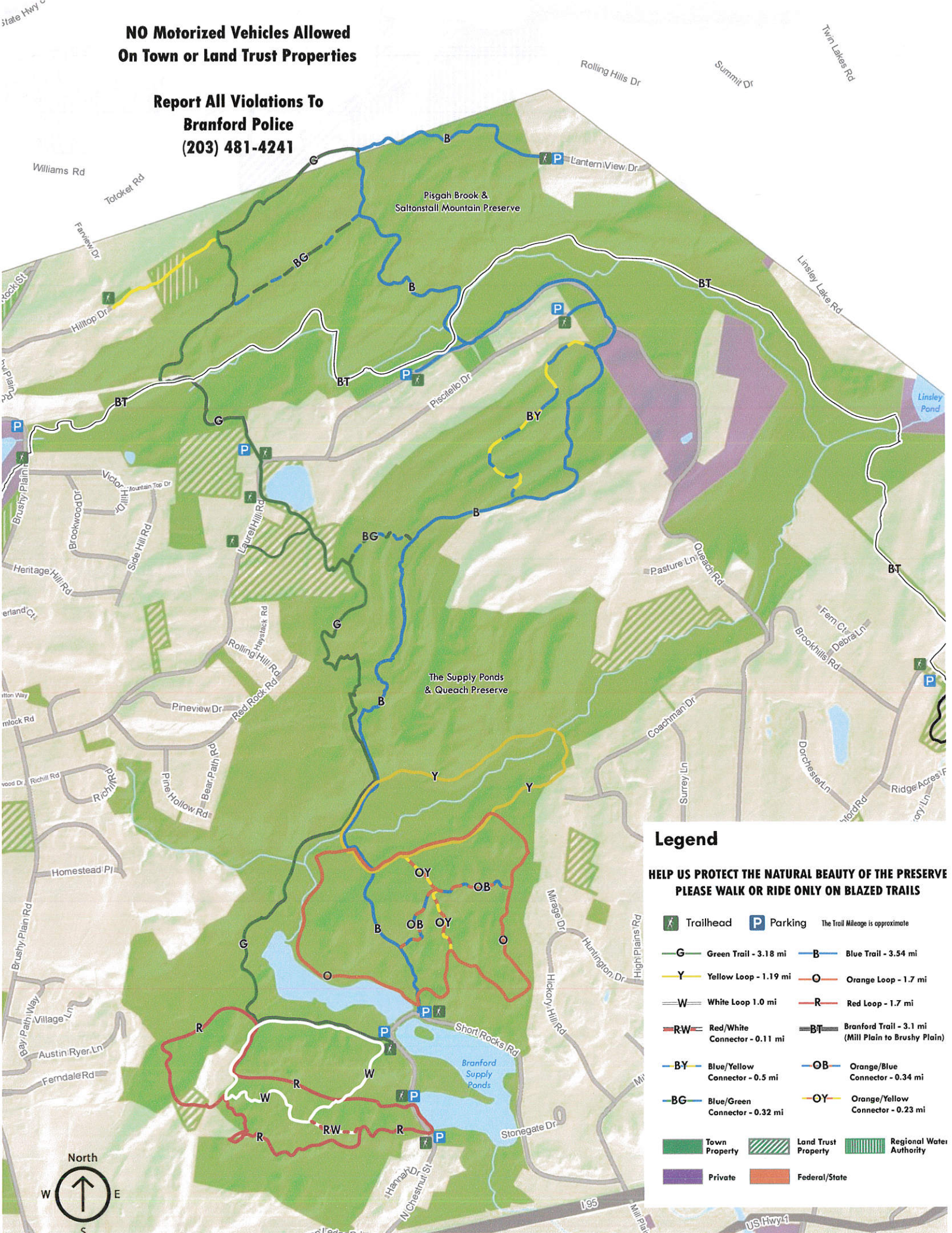
For more information about this walk contact:

Town of Branford
Parks and open Space Authority
(203) 488-8394 ext:120



**NO Motorized Vehicles Allowed
On Town or Land Trust Properties**

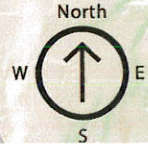
**Report All Violations To
Branford Police
(203) 481-4241**



Legend

**HELP US PROTECT THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE PRESERVE
PLEASE WALK OR RIDE ONLY ON BLAZED TRAILS**

- Trailhead
- Parking
- The Trail Mileage is approximate
- Green Trail - 3.18 mi
- Blue Trail - 3.54 mi
- Yellow Loop - 1.19 mi
- Orange Loop - 1.7 mi
- White Loop 1.0 mi
- Red Loop - 1.7 mi
- Red/White Connector - 0.11 mi
- Branford Trail - 3.1 mi (Mill Plain to Brushy Plain)
- Blue/Yellow Connector - 0.5 mi
- Orange/Blue Connector - 0.34 mi
- Blue/Green Connector - 0.32 mi
- Orange/Yellow Connector - 0.23 mi
- Town Property
- Land Trust Property
- Regional Water Authority
- Private
- Federal/State



The Branford Trail: Lake Saltonstall

Regional Water Authority Permit Required

The 30-mile Branford Trail is a unique trail that borders a majority of the town's perimeter. The white circle blazed trail passes through the shoreline, wetlands, many town parks, northerly woodlands, and many Branford Land Trust properties. The trail is separated into eight sections that begin and end at a public road with space for parking. Every home in Branford is within 15-minutes walking time of a trail. The entire Branford trail is best walked in a counterclockwise direction.

Photo by Betsy Grauer

The Branford Trail uses a few of the Lake Saltonstall Trails to create the a complete trail and uses one of the most scenic and popular trails on the property, the Lake Saltonstall Trail. The Lake Saltonstall Trail is the site's most popular trail and is perfect for jogging, hiking, bicycling, or cross-country skiing. You'll find beautiful views of the lake all year long. You can traverse the trail one way along the lake to take advantage of the view or do the entire loop around. The inland portion of the trail weaves in and out of spruce and pine plantations, native hardwoods, and a powerline right-of-way. It's the best trail for spring wildflowers, but includes some wet areas.

The Branford Trail leaves RWA property from the Fishermen's Parking Lot and exits onto Hosley Avenue. Turn right (south) and walk along this forest road to West Main Street (Route 1). The trail ends at Lakeview Plaza.

To obtain a hiking permit or to investigate other recreational activities at Lake Saltonstall (biking, boating, fishing etc.) call (203) 401-2654.



Photo by Alana Joli Abbott

Directions and Parking:

From I-95, take exit 52 and turn onto Route 1. Follow Route 1 and Hosley Avenue will be on the left in about a mile. Parking for this section is along Hosley Avenue. Hikers with a RWA permit may park in the Hiker's Parking Lot at 400 Hosley Ave.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

This trail follows public roads and private Regional Water Authority trails. A permit is required to access the RWA trails. Also, dogs are not permitted on RWA property. Hikers without a permit may walk along Hosley Avenue. This is a 3 miles, largely wooded stretch between Bushy Plain Road and West Main Street (Route 1).

Design for the Logo and Patch by Ralph Fuller

Easy Hike

The Saltonstall section of the Branford Trail is the only section that uses the RWA Lake Saltonstall Lands. It offers a nice hike on the edge of the Lake Saltonstall reservoir. There are great views of Lake Saltonstall and the diverse ecology surrounding it along with connection to many other trails in the area. Please keep in mind that a permit is required for the RWA trails.

Total trail distance is approx. 3.7 miles

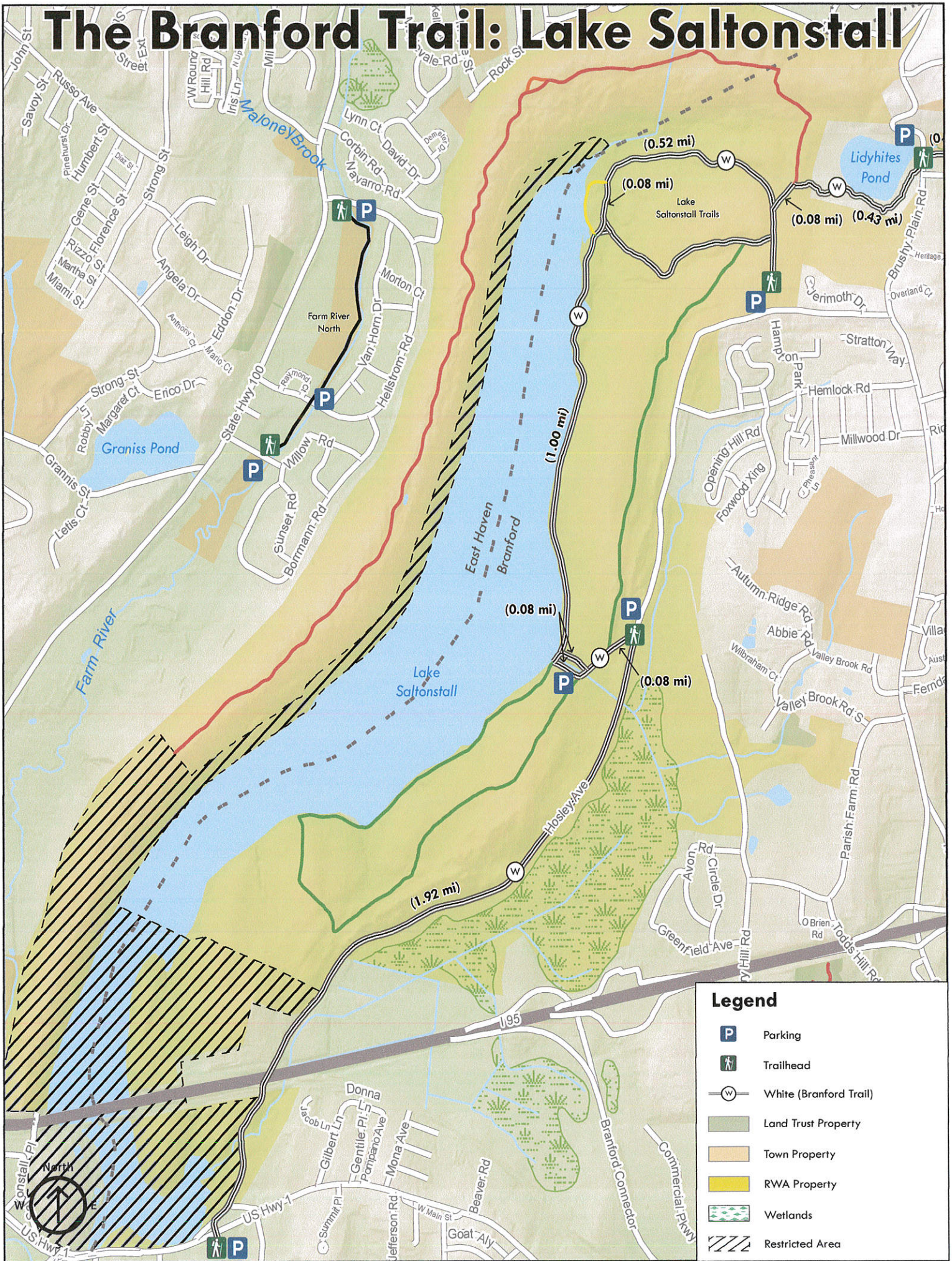


For more information about this walk contact:

Town of Branford
Parks and Open Space Authority
(203) 488-8394 ext:120



The Branford Trail: Lake Saltonstall



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- White (Branford Trail)
- Land Trust Property
- Town Property
- RWA Property
- Wetlands
- Restricted Area

The Branford Trail: Short Beach

The 30-mile Branford Trail is a unique trail that borders a majority of the town's perimeter. The white circle blazed trail passes through the shoreline, wetlands, many town parks, northerly woodlands, and many Branford Land Trust properties. The trail is separated into eight sections that begin and end at a public road with space for parking. Every home in Branford is within 15-minutes walking time of a trail. The entire Branford trail is best walked in a counterclockwise direction.

This 4.5 mile section of the Branford Trail features the Short Beach area of Branford. Roughly a mile wide, Short Beach is the most western neighborhood in Branford and is home to many small islands important as bird habitats. Short Beach is home to half of the Trolley Museum which is shared by neighboring East Haven. A 3-day festival is held in this area of town at the end of summer called Short Beach Days with a parade, lip synching, races, basketball, and sand castle building.

Photo by Chet Bloomquist

The trail starts at the end of Dominican Road and goes up and over Beacon Hill. The trail then follows the trolley line into Short Beach. Take Beckett Ave which runs parallel to the beach, or if the tide is right you can walk along the beach instead. Then follow the white blazes along Shore Line Drive (aka Short Beach Road or Route 142) to Double Beach Rd, Howard Ave, and Brocketts Point Rd back to Short Beach Rd. The trail continues through Harbor Village and east on Stannard Ave. A right turn onto Cove Terrace leads to a path to the Parker Memorial Park parking lot at Branford Point. Walk down Harbor Street to its end at Branford Harbor. From there you can look across to the beginning of the Branford Trail at Riverside Terrace on Indian Neck..

Directions and Parking:

Parking for this portion of the Branford Trail is at the end of Dominican Road. Dominican Road can be accessed off of Route 1 on the town line between Branford and East Haven.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

This trail follows public and private roads. When adjacent to private property please respect resident's privacy. Dogs are permitted on leash. Please bag and pick up all dog waste.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

Easy Hike

A special feature of this section of the Branford Trail is the Beacon Hill Lookout. Years of excavation have created a spectacular vantage point for viewing New Haven to the West and Long Island Sound. There is a particularly good view of the East Haven Trolley line.

Total trail length is approx. 5.0 miles

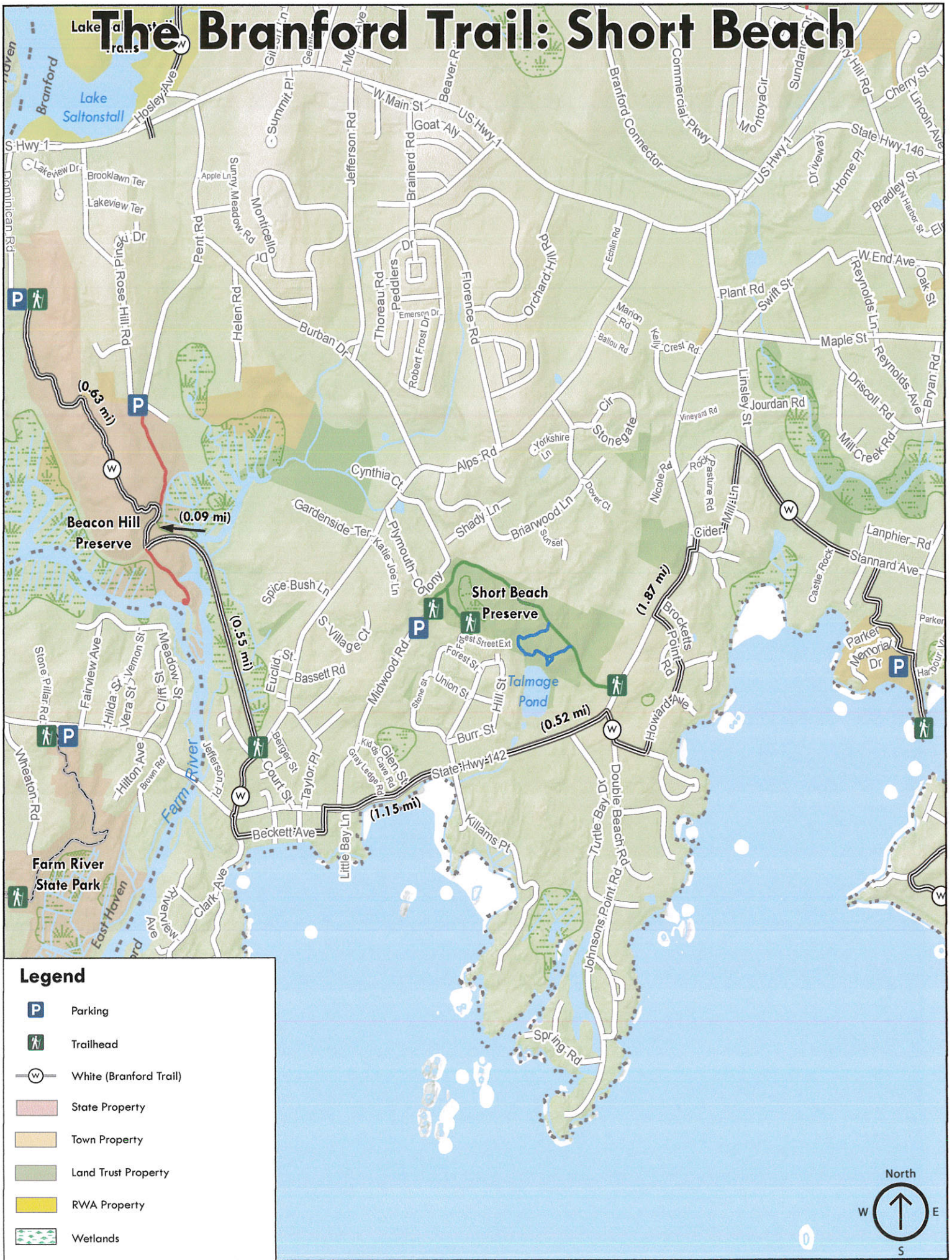


For more information about this walk contact:

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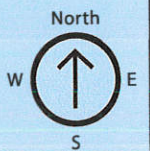


The Branford Trail: Short Beach



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- White (Branford Trail)
- State Property
- Town Property
- Land Trust Property
- RWA Property
- Wetlands



2:59



trailforks.com



sunset: 6:40 pm

28th Tue



63°F - 76°F

29th Wed

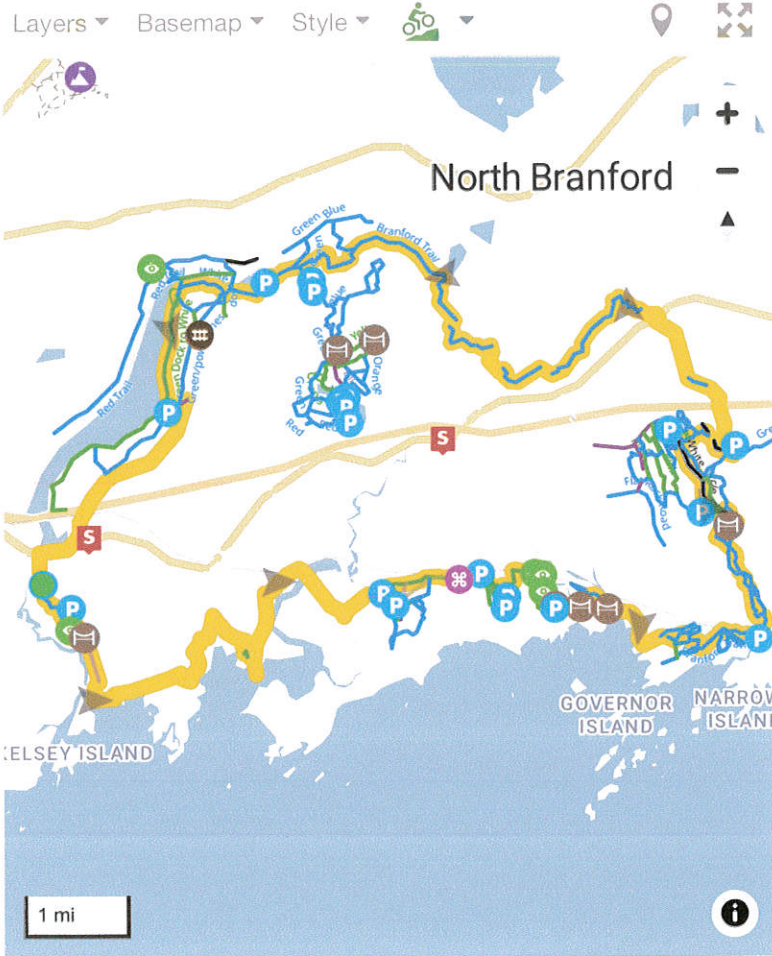


55°F - 69°F

30th Thu



53°F - 64°F



view larger map

