

MILFORD FAVORITE W·A·L·K·S

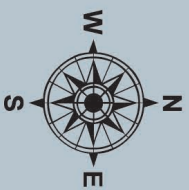
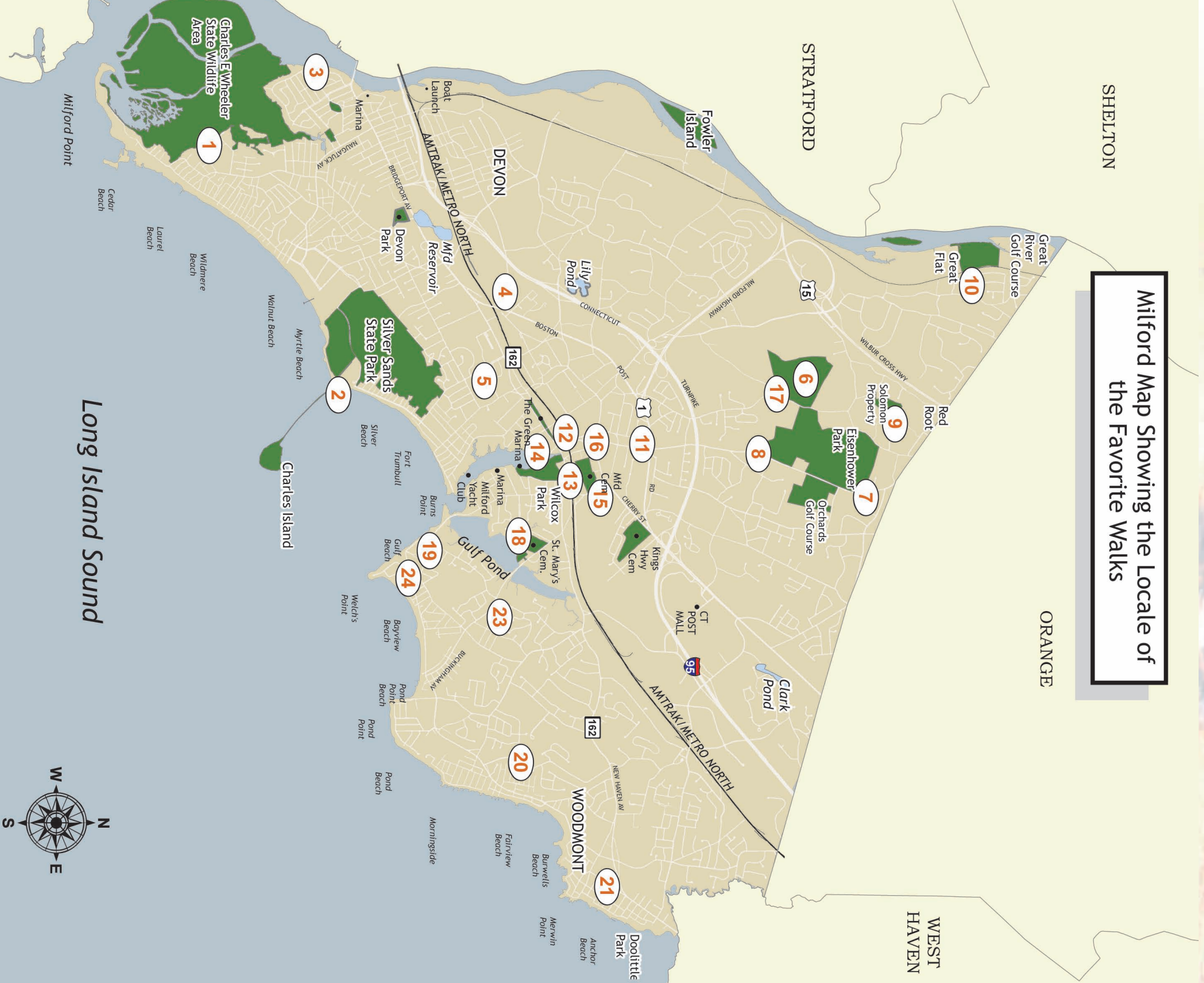
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WATER AND TRAILS



CONNECTICUT

Milford Map Showing the Locale of
the Favorite Walks



Dear Residents and Visitors:

Welcome to the second edition of the expanded Milford Favorite Walks, a project of the Environmental Concerns Coalition. This new edition features not only 21 favorite walks around town, but also shows you places to launch your kayak for a leisurely ride on some of our beautiful waterways. With the help of partner organizations, Milford Trees, Incorporated and Folks on Spokes respectively, Milford Favorite Walks offers a stroll to view some of our most prominent foliage, and routes on which you can take short, medium or long bicycle rides.

We urge you to use this booklet to visit the different parts of our town. Take a relaxed, unhurried stroll downtown to enjoy the Green, old historic homes and quaint shops, sundry monuments and plaques and Wilcox Park. Venture to Devon to meander along Silver Sands and the beach at the Audubon Center. Cross the Post Road and see the scenery as you make your way to Mondo Ponds, the Great River walk or the walks around Eisenhower Park. Wander along Gulf Beach to the Woodmont area and enjoy its maritime history.

Most of all, on all these walks, enjoy the colonial history and the charm of our beautiful New England village, filled with stately homes with their many architectural styles. Keep your eyes open to see the beautiful beaches and the myriad birds and waterfowl. We invite you to enjoy our past, participate in our present and help us plan for the future of our very special town.

James L. Richetelli, Jr.
Mayor



DEDICATION

TO

ELSA ANN DANENBERG

August 31, 1933 – October 23, 2004

Elsa Ann Danenberg, a lifetime dedicated walker and designer, was responsible for making possible our first edition of Milford Favorite Walks.

Elsa liked the environmental aspect and the goals of why we wanted to do such a booklet. She picked up our gauntlet and got us out of the starting gate. Her devotion to the project was unrelenting as we worked through the design process. Elsa created the maps, the cover and the text pages. She cleverly worked in her illustrations and symbols with the text and data that was supplied by ECC members.

It was Elsa's work that gave the booklet style and class. We wish she could see how it is still a very popular item, and has motivated us to continue her work expanding it into our second edition.

Thank You Elsa Danenberg.



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THE MILFORD FAVORITE WALKS

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P&L Management & Co. and BIC
Milford Chamber of Commerce
Milford Rotary
Devon Rotary

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MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALKS

PURPOSE OF OUR WALKING BOOK

1. Adding new "Favorite Walks" to the original dozen published in our first edition.
2. The new version includes:
 - Routes for cyclists and tree conservationists.
 - Special maps showing public water access locations for boaters, swimmers, and kayakers.
 - Information for many other outdoor activities available in Milford.
3. Heighten awareness of Nature's extraordinary gifts to Milford and to deepen our commitment to preserving these gifts together with the historical integrity of this gem of a 1639 Southern New England coastal town.
4. We are fortunate, in a rapidly changing region, to still have the opportunity to work toward that elusive balance between unlimited demands on our environment versus our habitat's limited capacity to comply.

**With this guidebook in hand,
We urge you to rediscover your city today.**

**Your support is greatly appreciated.
For donations please send to:
Environmental Concerns Coalition
% Kathlyn Kraffmiller, 37 Sycamore Drive, Milford, CT 06460
Make check payable to: ECC/Walking Book**

GENERAL INFORMATION BEYOND WALKS

Guidelines and directions how to use booklet and maps

1. Please note that all of this information is located on the Environmental Concerns Coalition (ECC), website www.milfordecc.com. Some Walks may be in longer versions on the web. To use this book, just follow your feet through Milford! Description of signage and symbols are at bottom of the pages.
2. Boating and other websites:
 - a) Harbor- boat moorings and slip reservations. Tele 882-5049 or visit the city website: www.ci.milford.ct.us.
 - b) Sailing – winter and summer—private clubs: www.milfordyachtclub.com (203) 783-0060 and
 - c) Courses in marine GIS, and Boat Safety (203) 874-0200. <http://a0142403.uscgaux.info>
 - d) Bicycle Rentals and Kayak Rentals – Rent A Ride and Bicycle Junction, 8 Daniel Street, Milford, CT www.rentaride.com (203) 876-0026.
 - e) Tony’s Bikes and Sports, Kayak and Canoe Rental, 108 Broad Street, Milford,CT, begunn51@yahoo.com (203) 878-5380.
 - f) Kayaking and canoe public storage call: 882-5049.
3. Public access for boaters: Public Boat Launch - See page viii.
4. Public Golf Course Milford Parks and Recreation Tele: (203) 783-3385.
5. Bike trails on Public Roads, see back map for www.greenway.org
6. Summer and winter activities, contact Recreation Department. Tele: (203) 783-3385.
7. Skate Boarding Park, Washington Ave., (203) 878-6501.
8. Handicap Accessible Walks—Mondo Pond and Wilcox Park.
9. Special Interests Walks and Trails:
 - a) FOS (Folks on Spokes) – www.bridgesmilford.org (203) 878-6365.
 - b) Historical Society, 34 High Street (203) 874-2664.
 - c) YMCA Nature walks, www.cccymca.org, (203) 878-6501.
 - d) Milford Cemetery
 - e) Milford Walkers, Recreation Department, (203) 783-3280.
10. Milford Oyster Festival www.milfordoysterfestival.org.
11. Chamber of Commerce www.milfordct.com, (203) 878-0681.
12. Milford Fine Arts Council, www.milfordarts.org (203) 878-6647.
13. New Haven Convention and Visitors – www.visitnewhaven.com, (203) 800 332-7829.
14. Milford Senior Center – www.milfordseniorcenter.com (203) 877-5131.
15. Milford Transit: 874-4507 and Metro North RR: 1-800-638-7646

MILFORD'S FAVORITE WATER ACCESS

Milford Water and Beach Access is over 17 miles along the Long Island shoreline. Also, Gulf Pond, Indian River and the Housatonic River.

Each of the accesses has its own assets, which can include:

1. Viewing, 2. Beach walking, 3. Swimming, 4. Motorboat launch, 5. Fishing, 6. Bird watching, 7. Parking, 8. Picnic tables, 9. Benches, 10. Boardwalk, 11. Car-top boat launch (canoe and kayak) and 12. Crabbing.

1. CT Post Mall, 1, 4, 6, 11
2. Home Acres, 1, 5- 7, 11, 12
3. Wampus Lane, I, 6, 7, 12
4. Live Oaks (back of school) 1, 6, 7
5. Oyster River by bridge, 1-7, 11
6. Rosemary Court, 1
7. Anderson Ave., 1, 9
8. Beach Ave., 1-3, 9, 11
9. Anchor Beach, 1-3, 5, 11
10. Doolittle Park, Woodmont, 1-7, 9, 11
11. Poli Estate, 1
12. Burwell's Beach, 1-3, 6, 11
13. Hillside Ave. Park 1-3, 9, 11
14. South St., 1-3, 11
15. Morningside Dr., 1, 5
On Point Beach Dr.
16. End of Coolridge, 1
17. Marie St., 1
18. Earl St., 1
19. Pelham St., 1-3, 11
20. Beachland Ave., 1-3, 11
21. Melba opposite Orland, 1-3, 11
22. Melba opposite Milesfield, 1-3, 11
23. Melba opposite Westland, 1-3, 11
24. Buckingham Ave./Gulf Pond, 1, 6, 5
25. Gulf Beach, 1-3, 5-9, 11

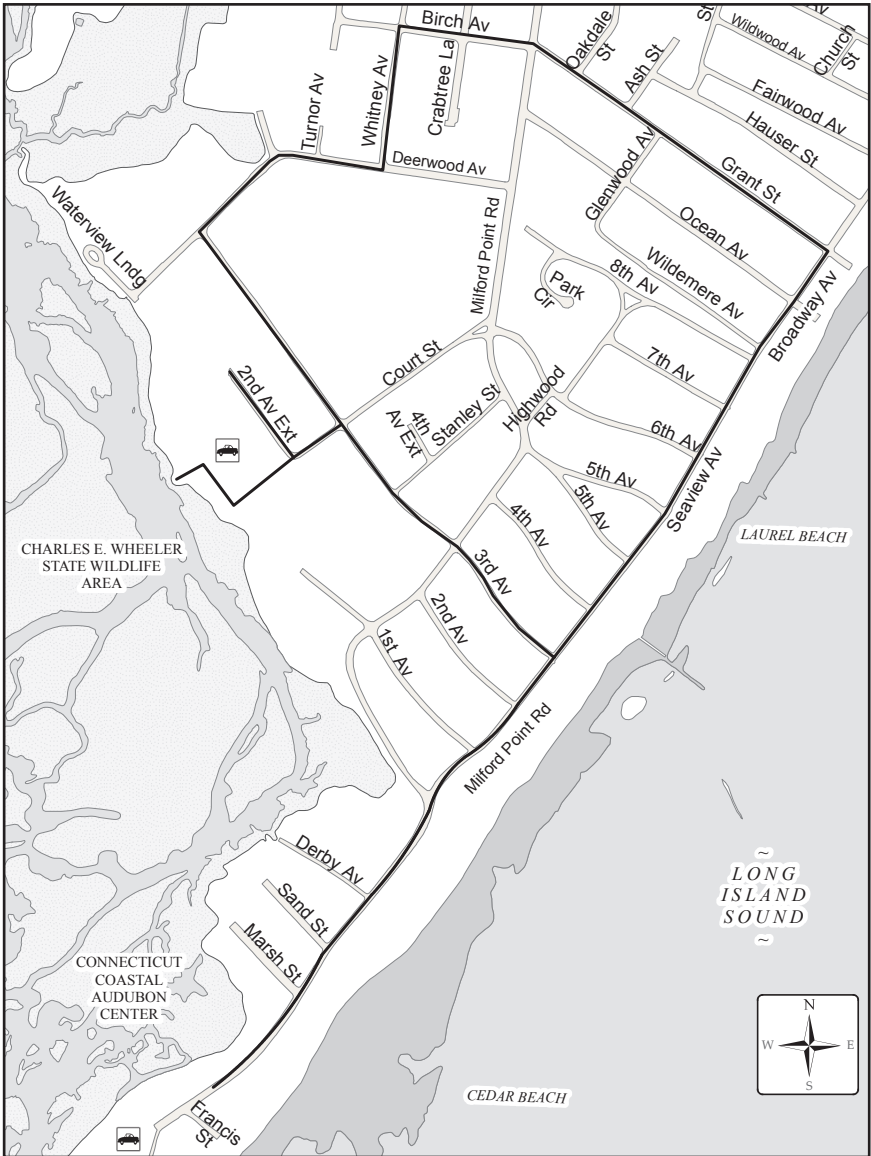
26. Gulf Pond, 1, 5-7, 9
27. Wilcox Park, 1 viewing platform, 7, 8
28. Harbor, Public Launch site, 4, 6, 7, 11
29. Lisman Landing, 1, 7-9
30. Town Dock, boat launch, 1, 5-9
31. Trumbull Ave, 1, 5, 9
32. East Broadway: 1-3, 11


Accesses at end of adjacent streets


34. Silver Sands, 1-3, 5-11
35. Walnut Beach, 1-3, 5-7, 11
36. End of Naugatuck, 1-3, 11
37. All along Broadway, 1-3, 11
38. Wildemere Beach, 1-3, 11
39. Ocean Ave/Grant S., 1-3, 11
40. Francis St., 1-3, 11
41. Waterview Landing (end of Laurel Beach) 1-3, 11
42. Salt Marsh Audubon Center/ Beach, 1, 6, 9, 11
43. Court St. off 3rd Ave, 1, 5-7, 11
44. Rivercliff Park. 1, 9
45. Housatonic Dr., 1, 6, 11
46. I-95 Boat Ramp (under I-95) 4
48. Caswell Cove, 1, 5, 7, 8, 11
49. Off Herbert St/Strawberry patch, 1
50. Great River Golf Course, 1, 6, 7

NOTICE: ALL BEACH WALKING AS LISTED MUST BE AT LOW TIDE
OR BELOW THE HIGH WATERMARK

MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALK NO. 1



 **Parking** - Boat Ramp and Milford Point (Audubon Center).
 Parking on side streets where not posted otherwise.

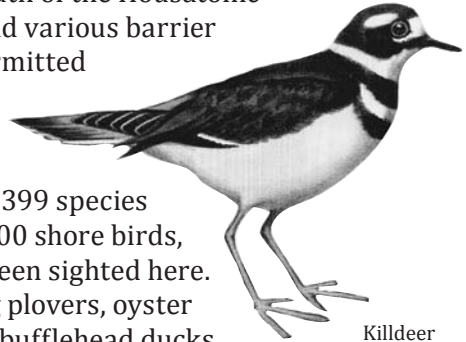
 **Restrooms** Inside Audubon Center

 **Boat Ramp**

AUDUBON, CEDAR, & LAUREL BEACHES

The Audubon Coastal Center, Cedar & Laurel Beaches Favorite Walk is 2.7 miles long.

Begin this walk at the Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center, an 8.4-acre state bird sanctuary and vast wildlife management area (State of Connecticut) at the mouth of the Housatonic River near Long Island Sound and various barrier beaches. Seasonal hunting is permitted in the Wheeler State Wildlife Management area so CAUTION is advised. For those avid bird watchers please note that of the 399 species of birds identified in CT, about 300 shore birds, songbirds and waterfowl have been sighted here. Specific examples include piping plovers, oyster catchers, canvasback ducks and bufflehead ducks.



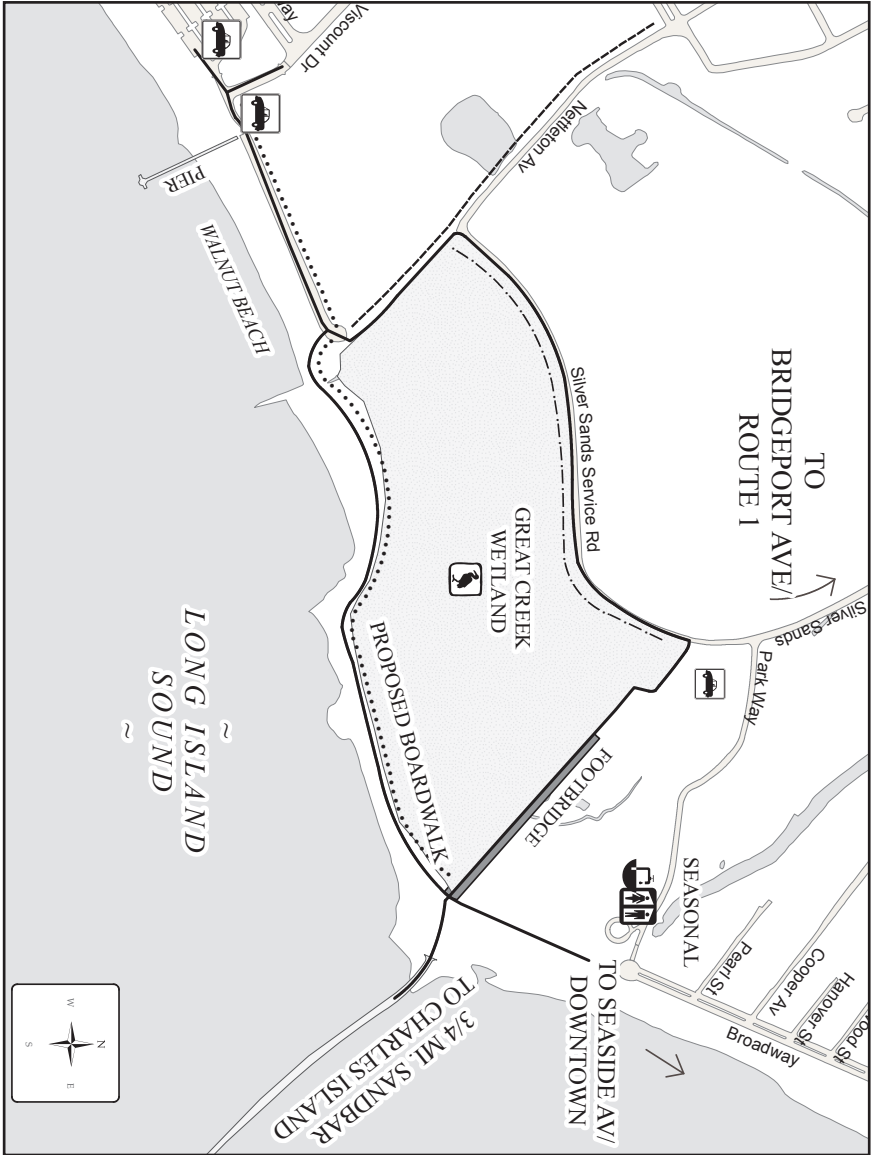
Killdeer










An additional short walk up 1st Avenue to the Milford Land Trust property on the left side bordering the Housatonic River results in a great panoramic view of the extensive estuary. Look for harriers and herons from this location. Stay to the right of the old Robillard homestead as the house is private.

Milford Pt. Road to the Center's entrance is narrow and without sidewalks, the neighbors will appreciate it if you drive within the speed limit. You may park in the Center's parking lot and walk from there. Follow the map and be sure to stay below the high water mark when on the beach.

The Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center is located on Connecticut State Sanctuary land and is open Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Grounds are open daily from dawn to dusk. The nature center has exhibit rooms and a nature store. From the end of March until early September, you can view osprey nesting above the salt marsh through the Osprey cam. You can find information about activities — canoe tours, educational and school programs, birthday parties, scout programs, summer camps, and family programs – on the Center's Website www.ctaudubon.org or by calling (203) 878-7440.

MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALK NO. 2



-  **Drinking water** (seasonal)
-  **Restrooms** (seasonal)
-  **Parking** - Silver Sands
Walnut Beach - Resident sticker or daily fee
-  **Footbridge** - Silver Sands & Walnut Beach
-  **Bird** - birding mecca
-  **Sand bar** - 3/4 mile sand bar to Charles Island
-  **Nettleton Avenue South** hidden footpath
-  **Silver Sands** service road
-  **Proposed boardwalk** connecting Walnut Beach to Silver Sands boardwalk

VIEW MAP HORIZONTALLY

SILVER SANDS, WALNUT BEACH, CHARLES ISLE

Silver Sands, Walnut Beach, and Charles Island Favorite Walk is approximately 2 miles.

The surface is mostly smooth consisting of gravel, asphalt pavements, wooden walkways, and beach sand that is level for its entire length. The walk includes a 1000-foot long pedestrian bridge crossing the Great Creek Wetland. The bridge is frequently used for bird watches. You may see Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Great Blue Heron, and Osprey. Various shore birds can be seen during migration such as Rudy Turnstones, Spotted Sandpipers, and Semi-palmated Sandpipers. Look for deer along the edges of the island.



Blue Heron

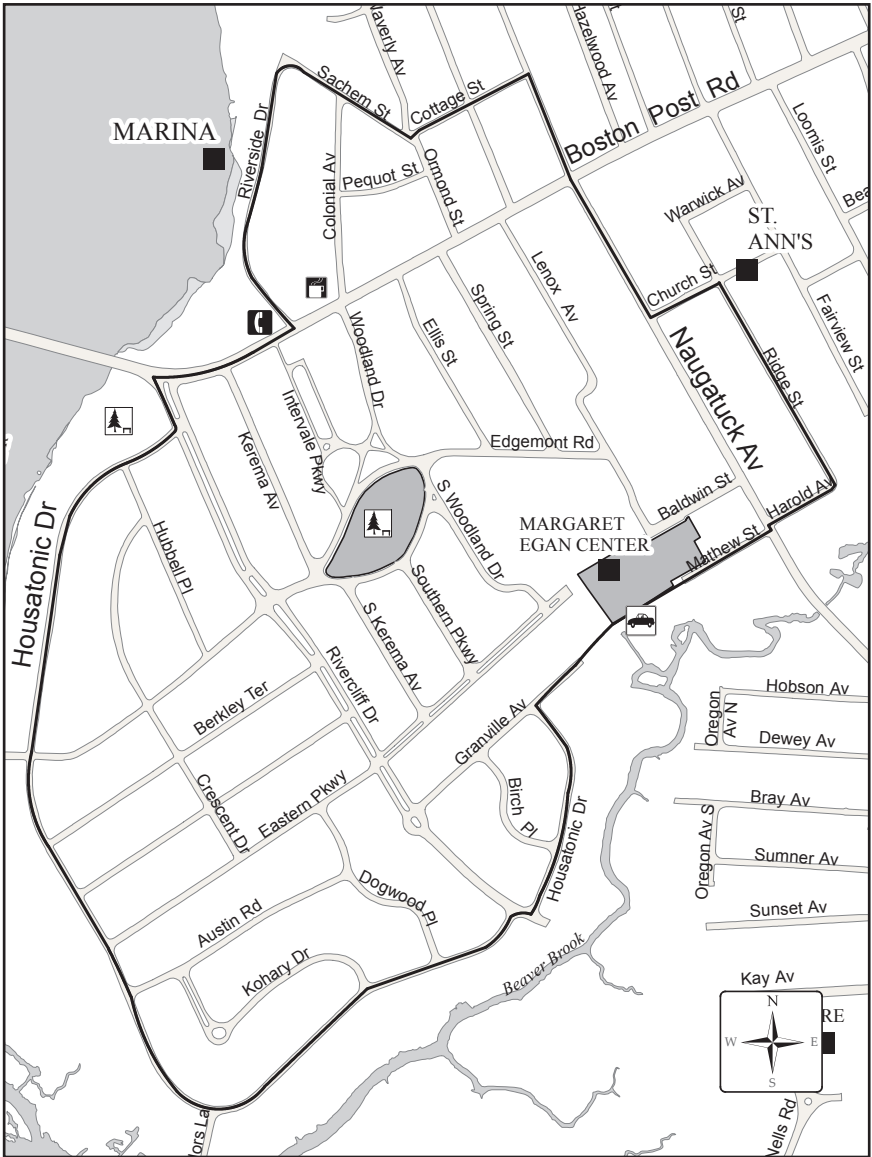
The boardwalk on the beach is short, and the rest of the walk to Walnut Beach is **about** $\frac{1}{4}$ mile long. The segment on Monroe Street, south on Nettleton Avenue to Walnut Beach leads you to Silver Sands Beach. This end is mostly covered in sand, but if you keep walking or biking to Walnut Beach, you will reach the Albert L. "Bert" Munroe Walking Pier that is adjacent to the Walnut Beach parking lot.




WARNING: It is important that CAUTION is essential when crossing the sand bar to Charles Island. Consult a local paper for the time of low tide. One should return to shore around the peak of low tide to avoid the danger of being caught or stranded in a fast tidal inflow.

The island proper is off-limits June 1st thru Sept 9th because of the nesting birds.

Please note: If you are on the FOS bike route at Walnut Beach, you can keep going through park to East Broadway without going to Monroe St.

MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALK NO. 3



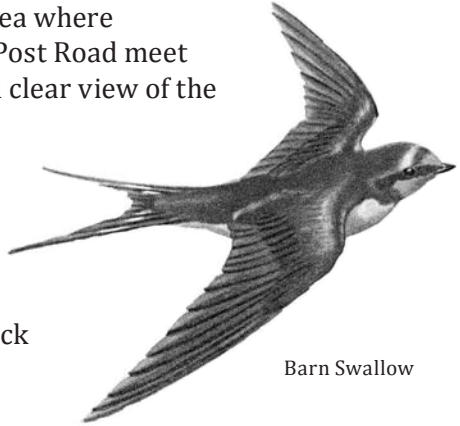
-  **Parking** – At the rear of Margaret Egan Center
-  **Telephone** – Boston Post Road & Riverside
-  **Dining facilities** – along Bridgeport Ave

MARGARET EGAN CENTER, HOUSATONIC DRIVE

The Margaret Egan, Housatonic Drive Favorite Walk is approximately 2.9 miles.

On this walk you will find the area where Riverside Drive and the Boston Post Road meet with an exceptionally scenic and clear view of the Housatonic River.

If you leave your car in the parking area behind the Margaret Egan Center, start by going up the steps to Granville, then walk one half block to Housatonic Drive. At the end of Housatonic, continue left on Rivercliff Avenue.

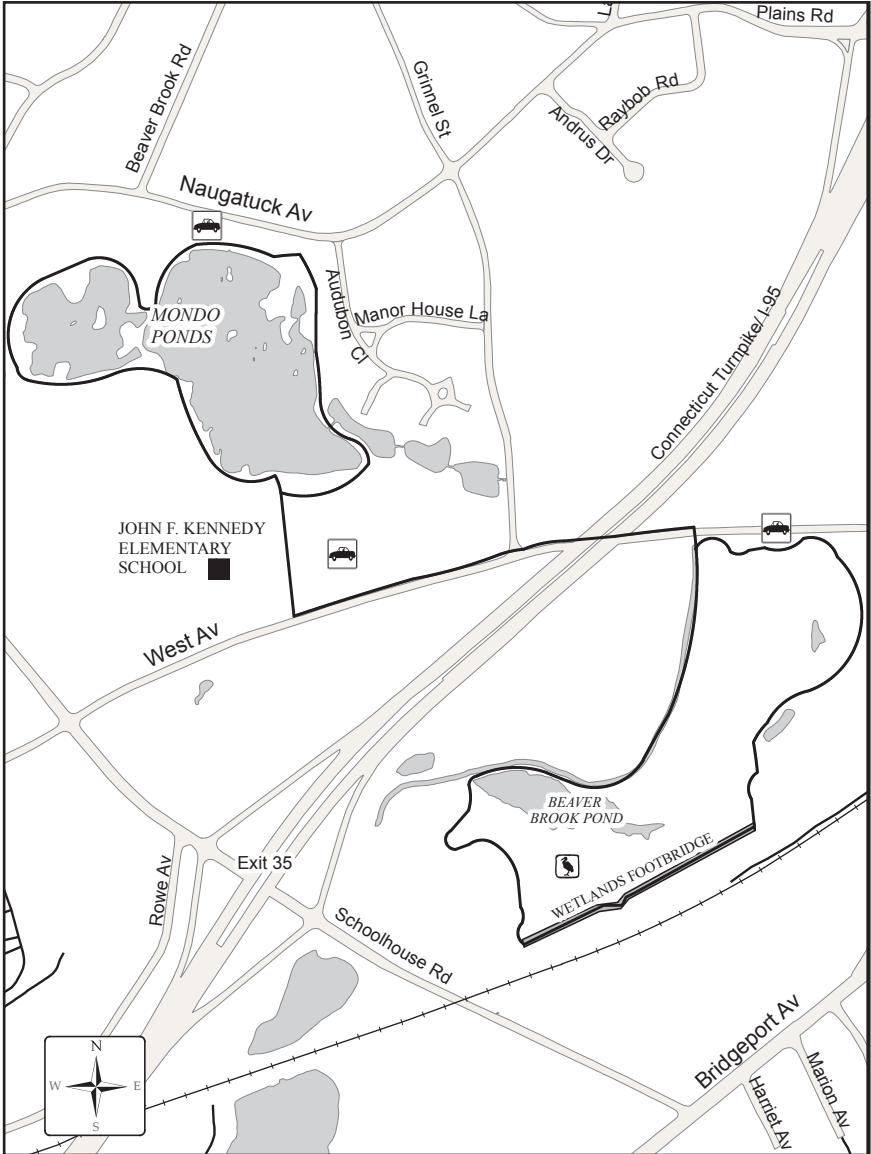


Barn Swallow

The entrance to the bridge at the Boston Post Road and Rivercliff is one of Milford's newest treasures, the Housatonic River Overlook. This new park is part of the Devon area's revitalization project. In 1649 or 1650, Moses Wheeler of Stratford started the ferry across the Housatonic, using a flat-bottom scow for transportation of animals and a canoe for foot passengers.

After crossing over the Boston Post Road, enjoy the boats at the marina as you come to Riverside Drive. Continue to follow the map back to the rear of the Margaret Egan Center.

MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALK NO. 4



Parking - West Avenue, Naugatuck Avenue and J.F. Kennedy School when not in session



Footbridge - Over Beaver Brook wetlands



Birding

No restrooms, drinking water, sanitary facilities, or night lighting

BEAVER BROOK & MONDO PONDS

The Beaver Brook and Mondo Ponds (northern most area) walk is approximately 3 miles.

There is some walking on dirt trails so sturdy shoes are needed. Bring binoculars, a camera and your fishing gear (if in season!).

In March look for Ring-necked Ducks on Mondo Pond. Hooded Mergansers and Wood Duck can be seen here if you are very quiet and motionless.

Parking is available at the west end of West Avenue, on Naugatuck Avenue at the north of Mondo Ponds and at J.F. Kennedy School, to the south of Mondo Ponds, when the school is not in session. There are no sanitation facilities, drinking water, or night lighting available along this walk.



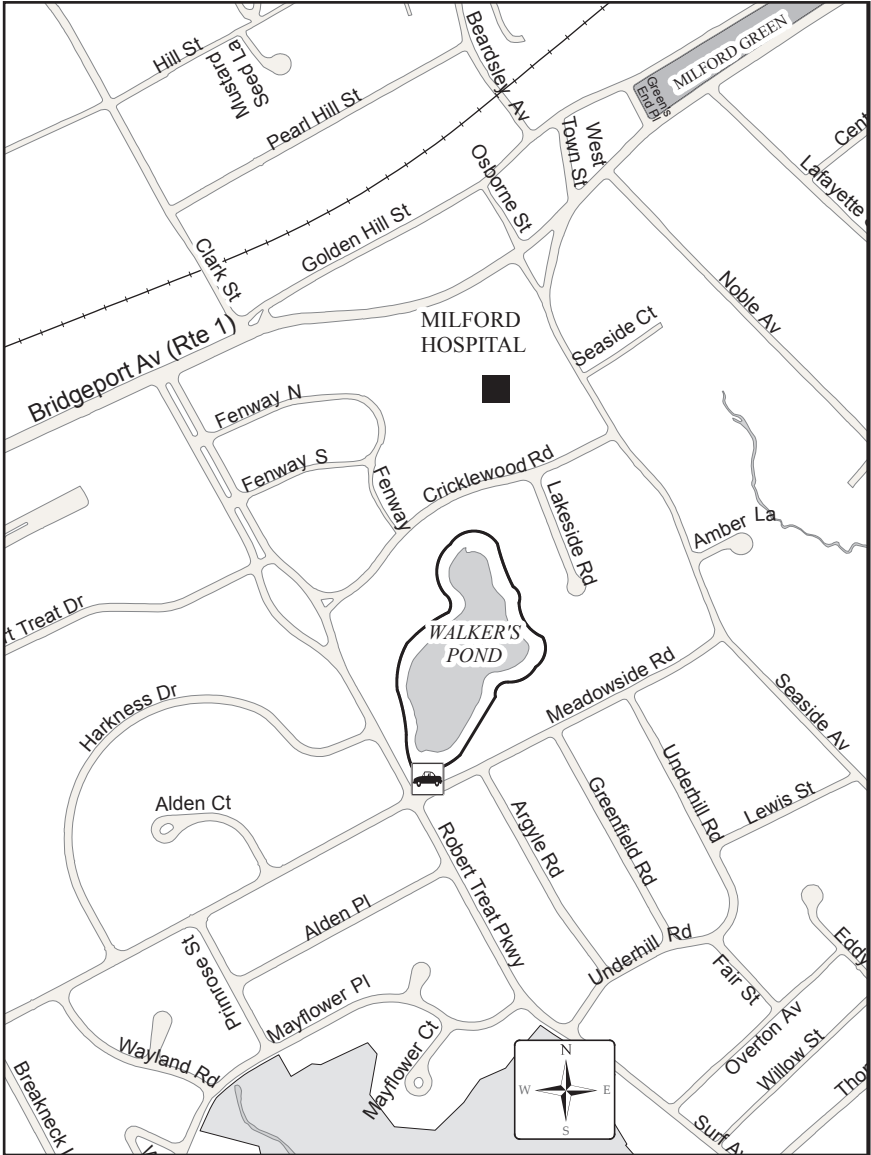
White Pine

Head south from the West Avenue parking area to the Beaver Brook Wetlands footbridge where the Beaver Brook meanders through a large stand of white pines. The bridge is an excellent spot for bird watching and has a viewing platform with benches on the western end of the structure.

Continue back to West Avenue, then westerly under I-95 to Kennedy School, to the entrance of the Mondo Ponds Trails. Follow the gravel path along three of the smaller of the Mondo Ponds and then walk counter clockwise on a loop around the larger of the two ponds.

Along these trails with little development in sight, you might imagine you are in the deep woods except for the roar of the Connecticut Turnpike. These ponds were created in the 1950 when a contractor working on I-95 excavated gravel leaving behind large dugouts, which filled with ground water and runoff. They are now home to numerous waterfowl and fish.

MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALK NO. 5



 Parking

WALKERS POND

Around the pond it is approximately a one-half mile. Walkers Pond is located near downtown, with two entrances, one on Crinklewood, next to the pumping station and the other, the main entrance, at the corner of Meadowside and Robert Treat Parkway, which has a kiosk with information about its namesake, Rev. Charles Walker.

When the water is very low, like the autumn of 2007, one can walk the pond's full circumference. However, when the water level is very high, this is not possible. However, when the water level is very high this is not possible. We are hoping in the future, that a floating bridge will be constructed so it will always be possible to enjoy walking or running the full circle. Until the trail is made level, it is not recommended for those with knee and hip problems

Thanks to the Alternative Ed. Students who, under the direction and supervision of their teachers, Annaliese Staziano and Kelly Graham, have worked very hard in restoring the environs of Walkers Pond. Besides removing the invasive plants and all the debris, they replanted many native plants, bushes and trees. A butterfly garden was planted at the entrance, next to the kiosk, which they also built and installed in the spring of '07.

Spring of '07, the Sectors wrote a letter published in The Milford Mirror: "Walker's Pond, which has recently received some welcome restoration from the Alternative Education School, deserves recognition as a wonderful place for birds, especially in late April and early-to-mid-May, when its resident birds are joined by spring migrants".

This year on May 2007, Walker's Pond was the host in what birders call a fallout, which occurs when weather prompts a large number of migrating birds to pause in their progress.

Taking refuge in Walker's Pond on the morning of May 2 were at least 75 ruby-crowned kinglets and four golden-crowned kinglets, joined by 12 black-throated blue warblers, six ovenbirds, four yellow warblers, 15 black-and-white warblers, 10 palm warblers four northern panikas, two Baltimore orioles, two red-headed grosbeaks, 10 hermit thrushes, 6 wood thrushes, four veery, one Swainson's thrush, one great-crested flycatcher and four blue-headed vireos. Overhead were a pair of osprey and a Cooper's hawk.

On May 3 a northern waterthrush and two solitary sandpipers came in with a blue-gray gnatcatcher and an eastern kingbird.

Other species commonly found at the pond include the green heron, black crowned night heron, snowy egret, great egret, great blue heron, and double-crested cormorant, spotted sandpiper, cardinal, white-breasted nuthatch, black-capped chickadee, Carolina wren, house wren, tufted titmouse, robin, mockingbird, red tailed hawk, goldfinch, flicker, red-bellied woodpecker, down and hairy woodpeckers, white-throated sparrow, chipping sparrow, swamp sparrow, and Savannah sparrow.

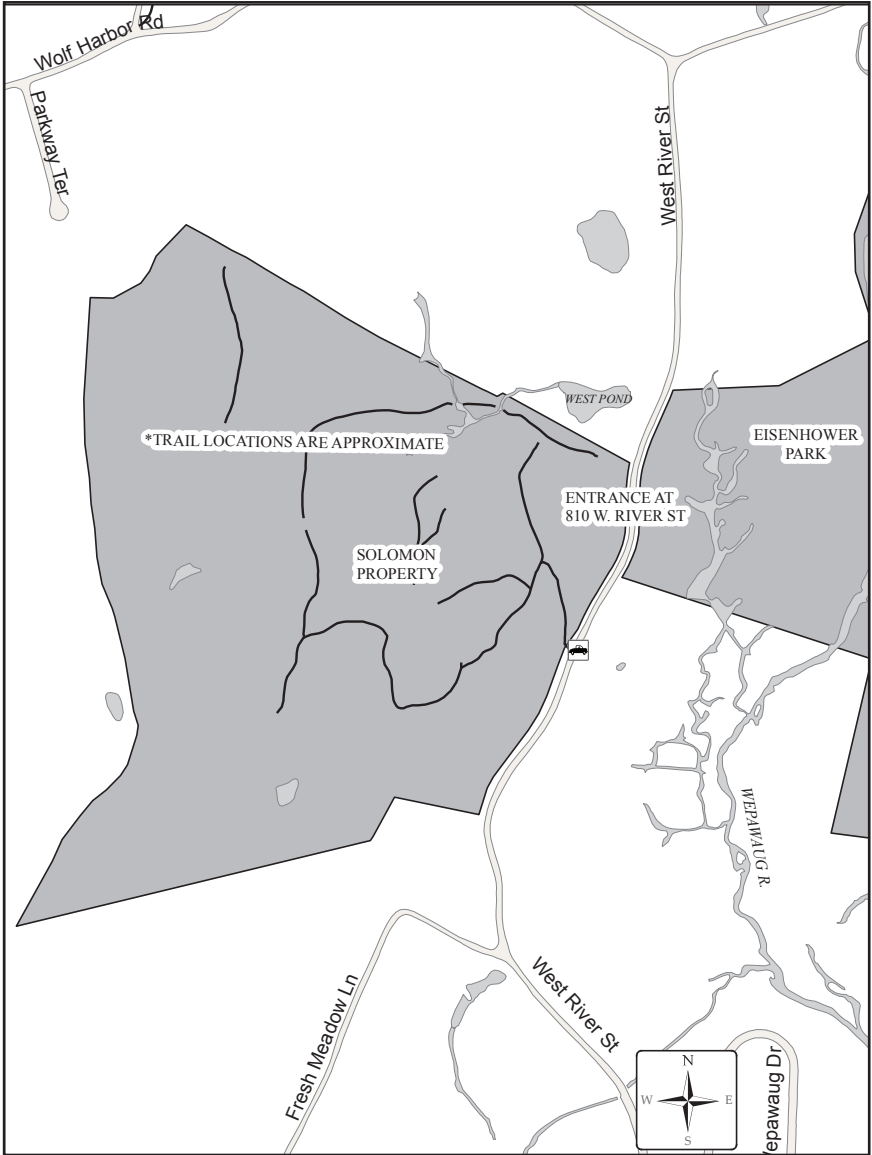
Additional info:


Since May 3 bird traffic has been quieter but has included such beautiful bids as the scarlet tanager, common yellowthroat, yellow-rumped warbler, and one spectacular male black burnian warbler.

So to the Alternative Education students and faculty who have been good stewards of Walker's Pond, one of Milford's ever-diminishing open spaces, we birders thank you, and more importantly, the birds thank you.

Steve and Charla Spector

MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALK NO. 6



 **Parking - 810 West River Street**

SOLOMON SECTION OF EISENHOWER PARK

Solomon Section Favorite Walk loop begins at 810 West River Street and is approximately 1 mile.

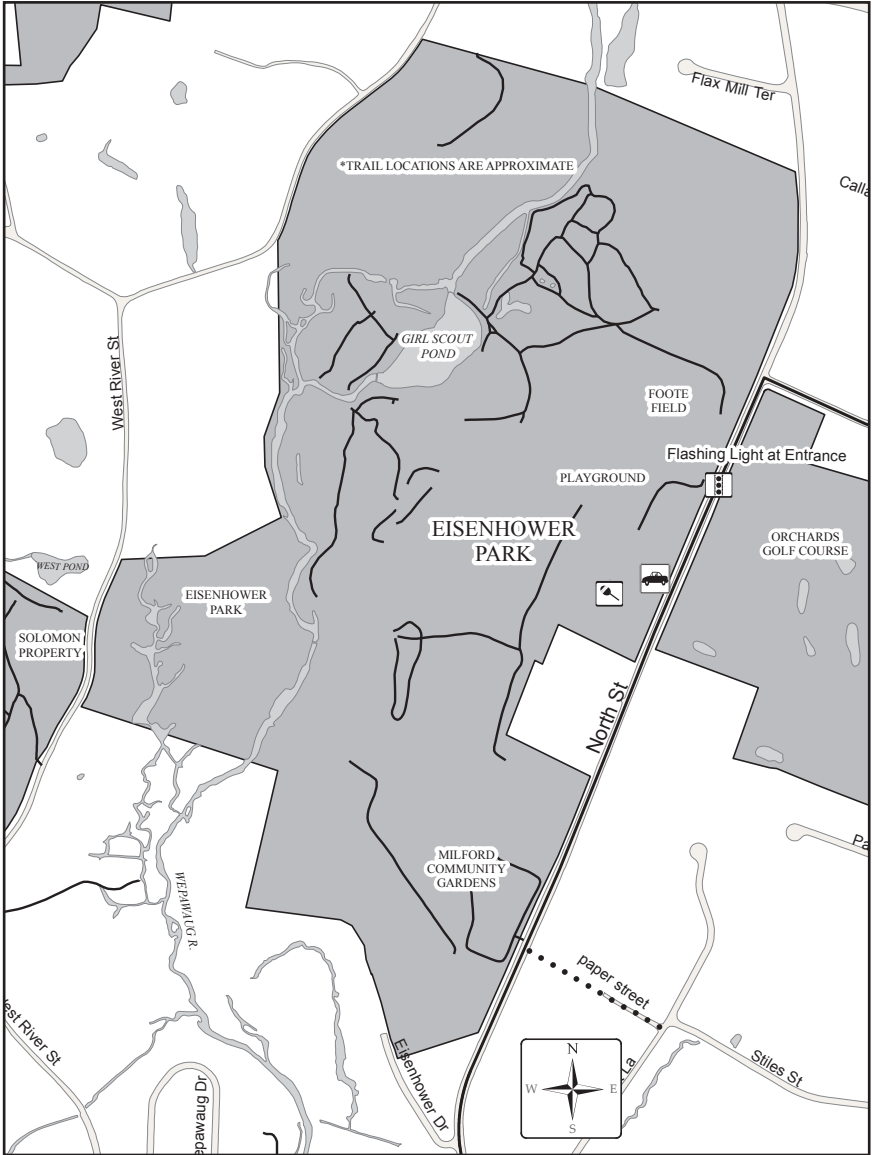
A compass is strongly advised, cell phone, and a companion. Also wear boots (it gets pretty wet) and pick up a walking stick along the way into semi-difficult trail. Blue rectangles are painted on the trees above eye level and to the right of the path. Be especially mindful to look for these rectangles at questionable junctions, always keeping them on the right.






The property possesses a multitude of unique features that are both aesthetically captivating and ecologically important. Its natural beauty is best expressed by the many bedrock ridges that overlook the surrounding landscape. The high ridge that overlooks the large central wetland and surrounding hillsides is the most exceptional of these places. The view from the top of this ridge offers the nostalgic experience of seeing Milford as it was before development altered the landscape.

The irregular topography also supports many significant habitat types. The undulating land surfaces, numerous rock outcrops and boulder fields create a multitude of microhabitats that have the potential to support a wide range of specialized floral and faunal species. Vernal pools are another important natural feature and could provide prime habitat for regionally scarce species of salamanders.

Well-established and majestic hardwood trees are in abundance on the Solomon Property. American Beech, Tulip Trees and Northern Red Oaks exist in an open park-like setting in some areas and envelop the hiker in a secluded woodland setting in other areas. Trails meander throughout all elevations of the parcel and provide hiking and jogging access to users of all skill levels. The severe topography of the land, as well as the high ridges and mature forests, create a buffer from road noise allowing for a truly peaceful escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALK NO. 7



-  **Parking** – Near tennis courts
-  **Restroom** – Eisenhower Park (seasonal)
-  **Drinking Water** – Eisenhower Park (seasonal)
-  **Tennis Courts** – Eisenhower Park
-  **Bike Racks** – Eisenhower Park

Playground – Eisenhower Park

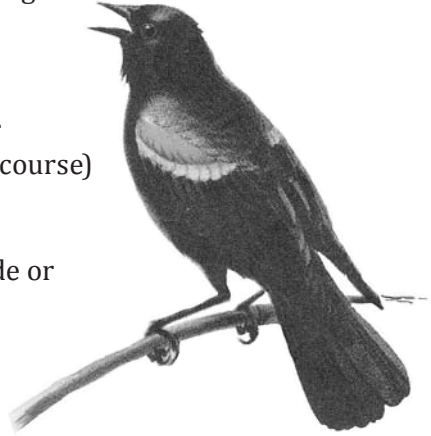
EISENHOWER PARK

The Eisenhower Park Favorite Walk is 44 acres of wilderness.

This walk is approx. 2 miles from town center, following North Street to the entrance at the flashing yellow light. Eisenhower Park has several trails throughout.

Begin this walk at the map kiosk, playground area near the outdoor Exer-Trac fitness center (obstacle course) and the Doolittle Tennis Courts.

There are trails along the right side or follow the paved road to another parking area. There are soccer fields, Foote Field, residential community gardens, model airplane fields, and dog runs.



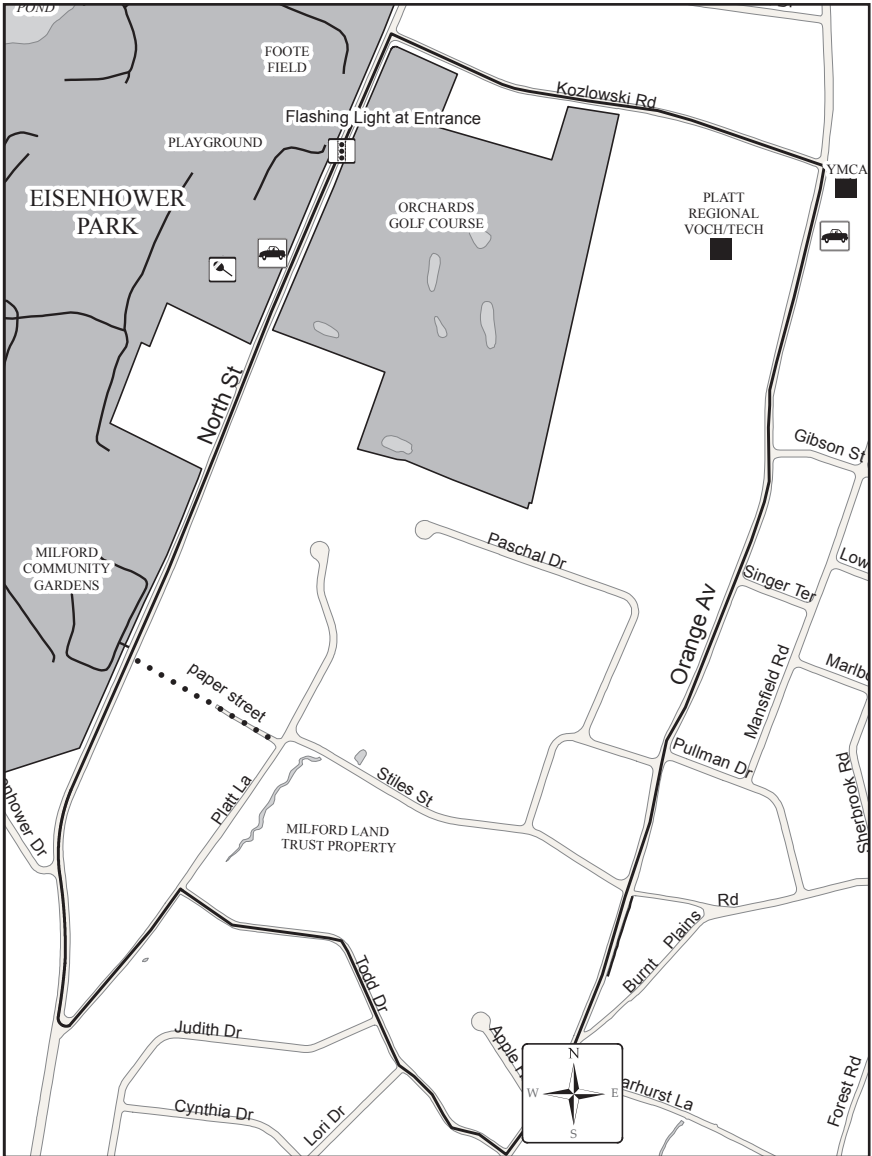
Red-winged Black Bird




We suggest you grab a walking stick and continue towards the end of the paved road with many wilderness trails, creeks, and rivers to follow. Wildlife include deer, rabbit, loons, warblers (Blue-winged nest), Black Ducks, Widgeon, or Gadwall birds not seen in most towns but birds which are regularly seen in Milford. Bluebirds and Brewer Blackbird are a bit unusual.




Yellow Warbler, Towner, or Brown Thrasher are all good Eisenhower Park birds.

There is also an entrance at West River Street. A future project is the Revitalization of Eisenhower Park. Restrooms and drinking water is seasonal.

MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALK NO. 8



-  **Parking** – Near tennis courts
YIMCA
-  **Restroom** – Eisenhower Park (seasonal);
YIMCA when open
-  **Drinking Water** – Eisenhower Park
(seasonal)

-  **Tennis Courts** – Eisenhower Park
-  **Bike Racks** – Eisenhower Park
-  **Playground** – Eisenhower Park

EAST OF EISENHOWER PARK

The East of Eisenhower Park favorite walk is 2.7 miles.

The East of Eisenhower Park Walk begins on North Street from the Doolittle Park Parking Lot (entrance to Eisenhower Park). Go to Kozlowski Road, past the Milford Municipal Golf Course (also called Orchards Golf course) and down to Orange Avenue. After going right, you will pass the YMCA on your left and the Platt Regional Vocational School on your right. Check out the boardwalk through a wetland that students build at Platt Regional Vocational School, which is on your right.



Day Lilly

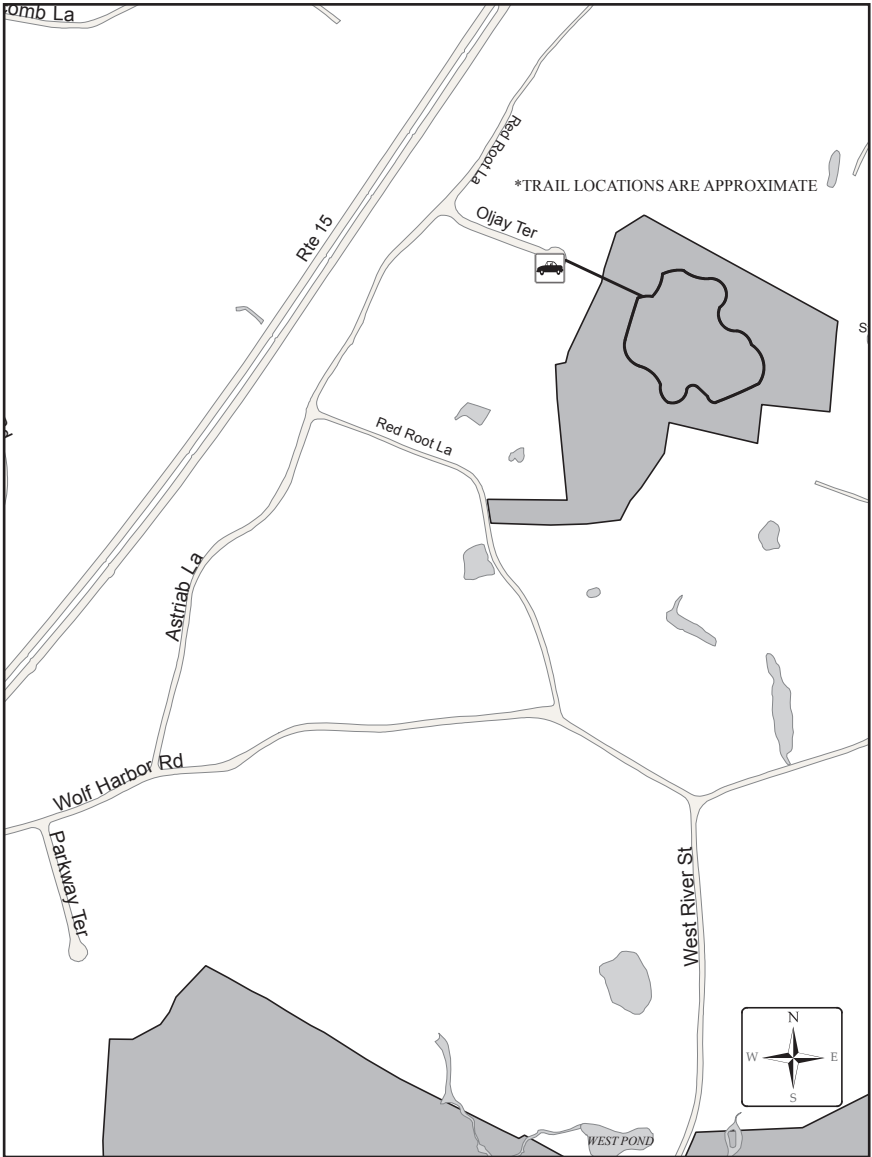
Future plans are underway to include at the YMCA indigenous outdoor nature walk and classrooms.

Continue to Todd Drive. You have the option of meandering through the pleasant residential streets of Lori, Cynthia and Judith Drives or going back to Eisenhower Park via Todd Drive.

Note: The Milford Land Trust owns a property off of Stiles Street which you might want to explore.

If you follow Stiles Street to the end by crossing Platt Lane it will lead you straight ahead onto a paper street bringing you to North Street across from the Community Gardens.

MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALK NO. 9



 **Street Parking**

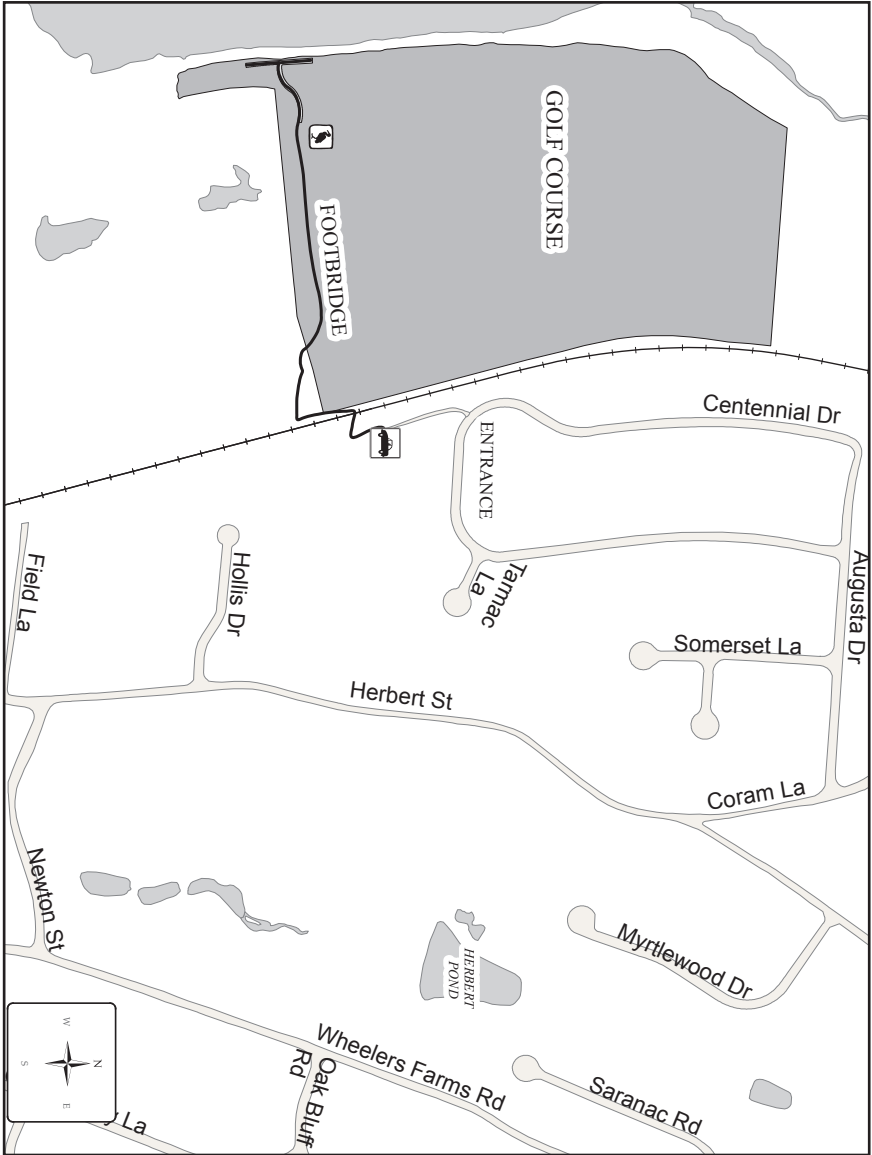
RED ROOT NATURE TRAIL





The Red Root Nature Trail is approximately .5 miles.

The Red Root Nature Trail was designed by community effort coordinated by Harvey J. Pond, Jr. It is a beautifully forested area of 21 acres. The trail is 1/2 mile in length with a variety of ecological areas on uneven ground. Please follow good conservation practices by not taking anything or leaving anything behind. Stay on the designated trail. The trails are no longer marked and work is in progress. Follow the guide to ten stations along the trail.

1. The treetops in this area have many Gray Squirrel nests. The bulky nests built in the forks of branches are used when raising young. The squirrels live in the ground during winter.
2. The rocks in this area, fieldstone and shale, were carried here by glaciers. In order to grow crops, farmers cleared the land of rocks, which were made into stone walls.
3. In this small grove the trees are conifers which stay green all year round and have needles rather than leaves.
4. One of the most interesting tree in this area is the tulip tree so named for its tulip shaped leaves and large tulip-like flower. Notice how straight and tall the tree is. Feel the smooth flat ridged bark. Many Indians used the trunk for dug-out canoes.
5. In every natural environment, it is important that there is a clearing and water source for animals that live in the area. Low grasses and bushes provide cover and a food supply.
6. Ferns and mosses are often found in wet areas such as this.
7. In this area, there are a lot of vines which resemble tree branches, but grow from the ground up. Vines need something to grow up in order to reach the sun, but they often choke and kill the tree.
8. Around you are fallen trees. There are some because the rock and water in the soil do not allow the trees roots to grow deep. A strong wind can knock those over.
9. Fungi and mushrooms grow along the walk here on the logs. Some are helpful; others cause diseases for trees and people. Please do not touch the fungi and mushrooms.
10. American Beech trees are plentiful in this area. They can be spotted by their smooth pale gray bark and long pointed leaves. Oak trees are also abundant.

MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALK NO. 10



-  Parking
-  Viewing Platform
-  Birding
-  Golf Course

GREAT RIVER WALK

The Great River Favorite Walk is approximately 1/4 to 1/2 miles.

Take Wheelers Farm Road North past the Merritt Parkway, Left on Newton, then right onto Herbert St. At the fork go left on Coram Lane, then left on Augusta Drive, which becomes Centennial Drive at bend. From the bend this (this road is a loop), continue for approximately ¼ mile to the next bend and look for the white fence. The entrance to this walk is between two homes at the bend. Just beyond the white fence, you will see the entrance that leads you to the parking lot. There are a few steep spots in the walk, so be sure you are wearing sturdy shoes.



Follow the path at the end of the parking lot, going down to and under the railroad bridge. This pleasant walk meanders through the woods, along one side of the Great River Golf Course. You will see lovely vistas of the Housatonic River, a babbling brook and the several different views of the golf course.

There is a long stretch of boardwalk which ends with a viewing platform running parallel with the Housatonic River from which you can observe the river and wildlife.

Look for Clapper and King Rail along the edges of mudbanks or marshes. Osprey, Harrier, and Redtailed Hawks can be seen in the sky. Harriers will be low tipping as they cruise with their wings in a dihedral (V). Observe Black Ducks, Mallards, Widgeon, Gadwall, all three Mergansers: Common, Hooded, and Red-breasted diving for fish in the river. Look for Blue-winged Teal in the Spring and Goldeneyes in the winter. All the Herons and Egrets can be seen along the banks. If you see small ducks with white on their head they could be Buffleheads. Harbor Seals are a possibility every winter.

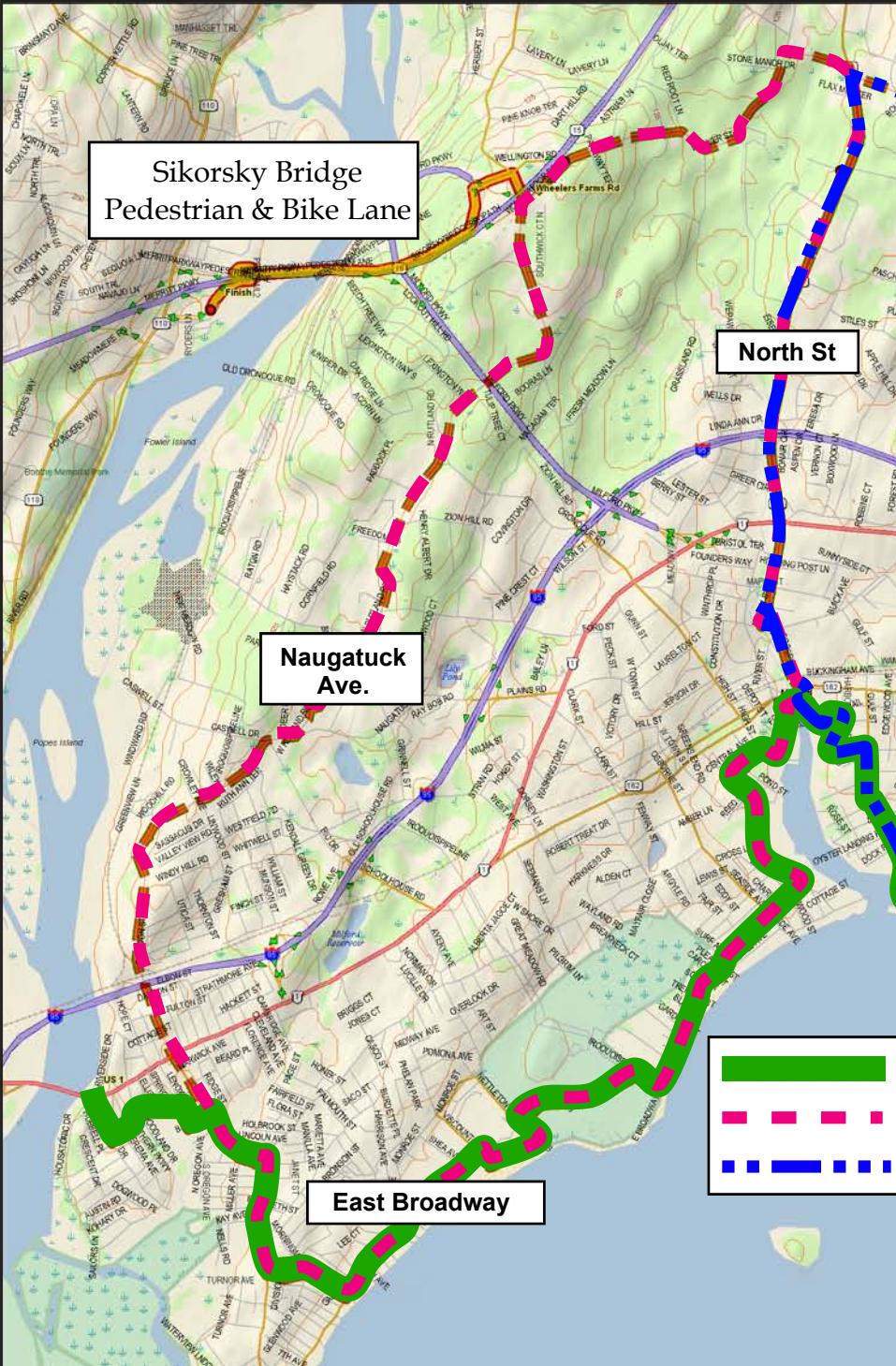
Sikorsky Bridge Pedestrian & B

Sikorsky Bridge
Pedestrian & Bike Lane

North St

Naugatuck
Ave.

East Broadway



Bike Lane - Milford Bike Trails



Route 1

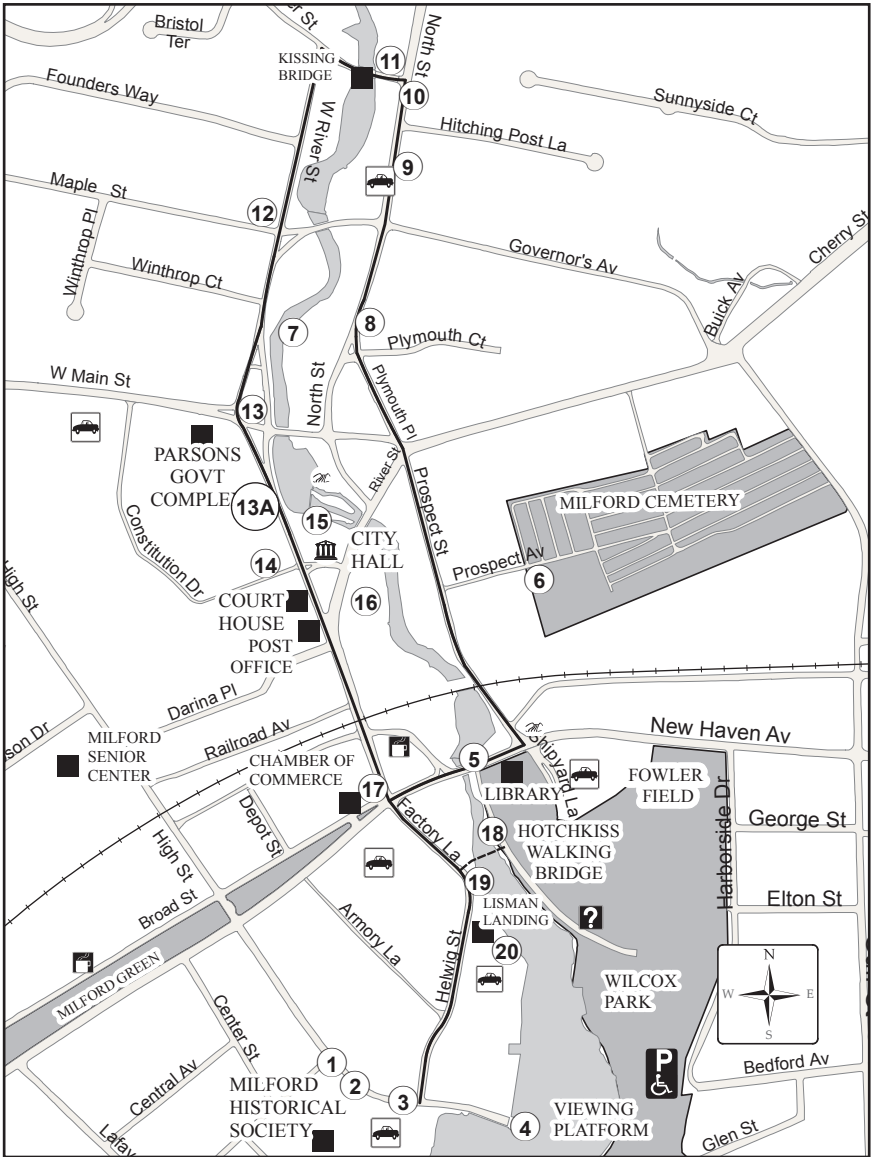
Anderson Ave





New Haven Ave.

EAST COAST GREENWAY
BIKE ROUTE 1
BIKE ROUTE 2



MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALK NO. 11



-  **Parking** - Behind Library and behind tennis courts, (with some time limits)
Lisman's Milford Landing
-  **Dining** - Downtown area
-  **Scenic Waterfall** - Duck Pond
-  **City Hall**

THE HISTORIC WALK

The Historic Favorite Walk is approximately 1.8 miles.

The following Historical sites can be viewed on the walk:

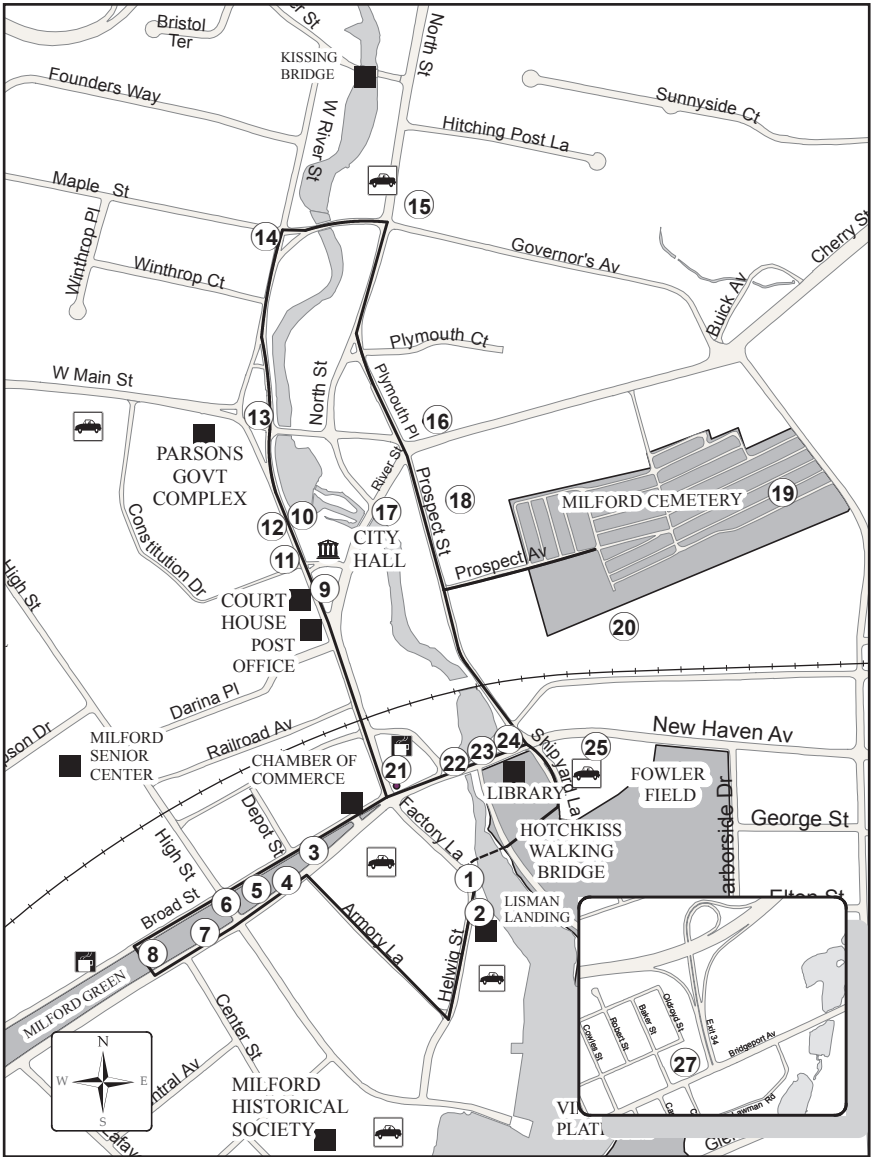
1. Bryan-Downs House, c. 1780
2. Fells-Stow House, c. 1700
3. The Stockade House, c. 1750
4. Milford Dock with viewing area
5. Memorial Bridge
6. Old Cemetery – Three Governors buried here: Treat, Law, and Pond. Look for Captain Stephen Stowe monument
7. Site of Samuel Durand House, c. 1725
8. Buckingham House, remodeled 1753
9. Double Dutch, Thomas Sanford, c. 1789
10. John Downs House, c. 1790
11. Greek Revival, c. 1801, Rev. Samuel Andrew
12. Mary Hepburn Smith House, c. 1850's
13. First United Church of Christ, 1823-24
14. Beaux-Arts, 1909, High School, now senior housing
15. City Hall, rebuilt 1916, Duck Pond and scenic waterfall
16. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 1857
17. Henry Taylor Library, now Chamber of Commerce, 1893
18. Hotchkiss (Footbridge)
19. Simon Lake Explorer Submarine
20. Lisman Landing – Head of the Harbor





12a. Mary Hepburn Smith House, c. 1850's - It's an outstanding Italianate-style mansion. After the fire in 1899, she purchased the land and created the current Duck Pond Park for the city.

13a. George Washington's visit: In front of Parson's office complex, plaque marking George Washington's visit to Ye Old Clark Tavern, November 11, 1789. Washington was traveling through Milford to New York City. He stopped for a breakfast of milk and bread but found Clark's service tableware unsatisfactory. A spoon was borrowed next door from Rev. William Lockwood's wife's wedding silver. The slate steps that Washington walked on are at the Milford's Historical Society.

Note: reference to George Washington's visit: Freelove Baldwin Stow Chapter D.A.R. January 14, 1933

MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALK NO. 12



-  **Parking** - Behind Library and behind tennis courts, (with some time limits)
Lisman's Milford Landing
-  **Dining** - Downtown area
-  **Scenic Waterfall** - Duck Pond
-  **City Hall**

VIEW MAP HORIZONTALLY

MONUMENTS, MARKERS, MEMORIALS, AND PLAQUES

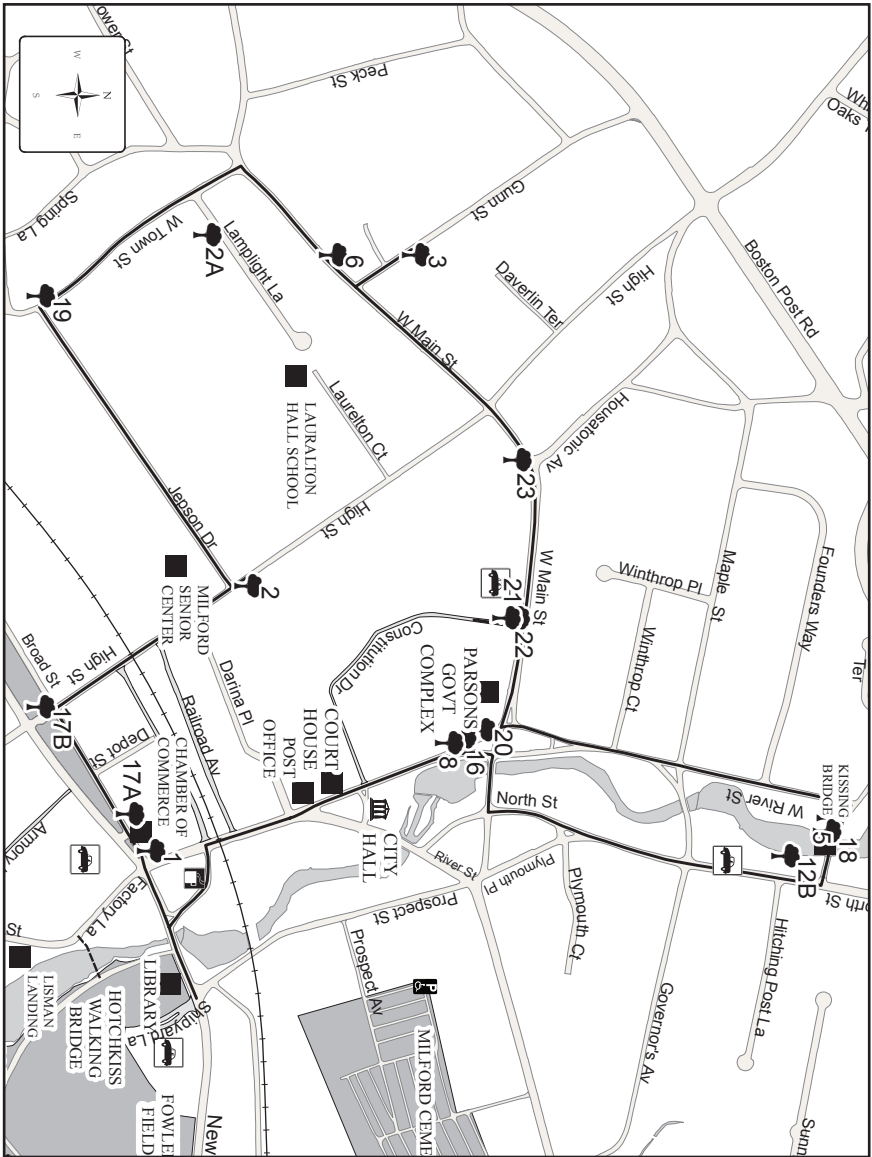
The Monuments, Markers, Memorials, and Plaques Favorite Walk is 2.8 miles.






Please park behind the library or at the public parking lot entered from Factory Lane to begin this walk. This walk will acquaint you with some of Milford's past and hopefully spark your interest.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ① Harbor Landing Stone | ⑭ Milestone Marker |
| ② Simon Lake's Sub Explorer | ⑮ Home of Robert Treat Site |
| ③ World War II Monument | ⑯ Early Post Office Site |
| ④ Milford Volunteer Fire Department Bell and Memorial | ⑰ 300th Anniversary Bridge and Monument |
| ⑤ Milford Flagpole Memorial | ⑱ Peter Prudden Garden Marker |
| ⑥ Fountain in Remembrance of Thomas Ford | ⑲ General Baird Centennial Stone |
| ⑦ Civil War Monument | ⑳ Revolutionary War Soldiers Monument |
| ⑧ Korea-Vietnam Memorial | ㉑ Tower Memorial |
| ⑨ World War I Memorial | ㉒ Memorial Bridge |
| ⑩ Milford Remembers September 11 Memorial | ㉓ 1989 Plaque |
| ⑪ Regicide House Site Plaque | ㉔ Fowler Mill Marker |
| ⑫ Jonathan Law House site Plaque | ㉕ Shipyard Marker |
| ⑬ Meeting House | ㉖ Liberty Rock |

Descriptions of each location are available on the website.

MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALK NO. 13



-  **Parking** – behind library, south of Green entering from Broad St. or Factory Lane
-  **Telephone** – library – when open
-  **Restrooms** – same as above
-  **Dining** – various downtown
-  **Handicap Parking** – behind library

VIEW MAP HORIZONTALLY

MILFORD TREES SHORT WALK

The Tree Favorite Walk is 2 miles.

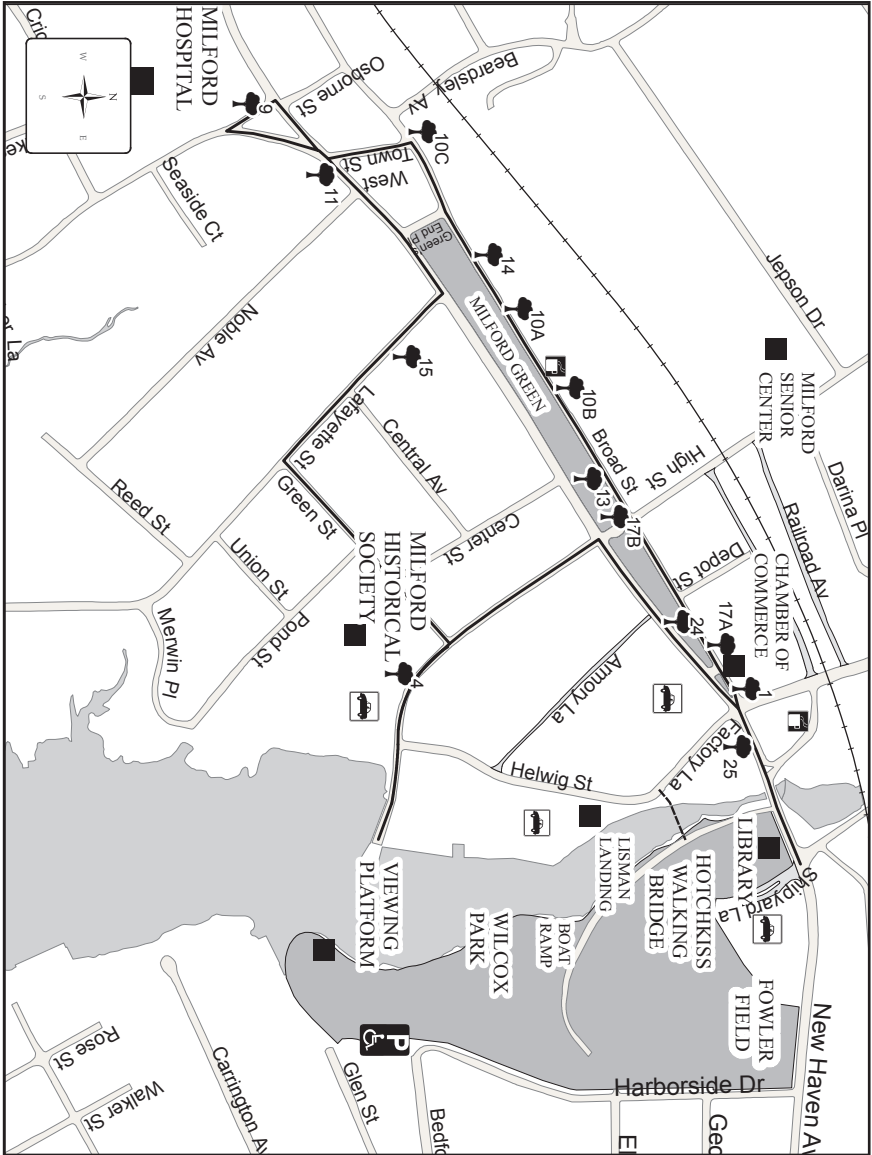
The designated trees on this walk have come out of the Milford Trees, Inc. tree inventory and thus are not in numerical order. Milford Trees, Inc. (www.milfordtrees.blogspot.com) was founded in 2000 and is a nonprofit organization promoting proper planting, maintenance, and replacement of public trees.

Addresses are provided to assist you in finding specific trees. Enjoy looking at trees on private property from the sidewalk. Please bring a tree identification book with you, as space is too limited to provide such information.

- 25 **Red Maple** – Across from Archie Moore’s on Factory Lane
- 1 **English Elm** – 5 Broad St., CT State Champion
- 17A **Sweetgum** – 33 N. Broad St. *
- 17B **Sweetgum** - The Green, corner of High St. & N. Broad St.
- 13 **Elm Hybrid** – Across from 107 N. Broad St.
- 10B **Copper Beech** – 125 N. Broad St. (backyard) *
- 10A **Copper Beech** – 135 N. Broad St. *
- 14 **Tulip Tree** – 147 N. Broad St. *
- 10C **Copper Beech** – Corner West Town St. & Golden Hill St. *
- 11 **Scholar Tree** – 266 S. Broad St. *
- 9 **London Plane Tree** – Triangled area, Seaside Ave. & Broad St.
- 15 **American Elm** – 12 Lafayette St.
- 4 **White Oak** – 34 High St. Milford Historical Society *
- 24 **Colorado Blue Spruce** – Across from 78 S. Broad St., east end of Green

* trees on private property

MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALK NO. 14



- Parking
- Telephone
- Restrooms
- Dining

VIEW MAP HORIZONTALLY

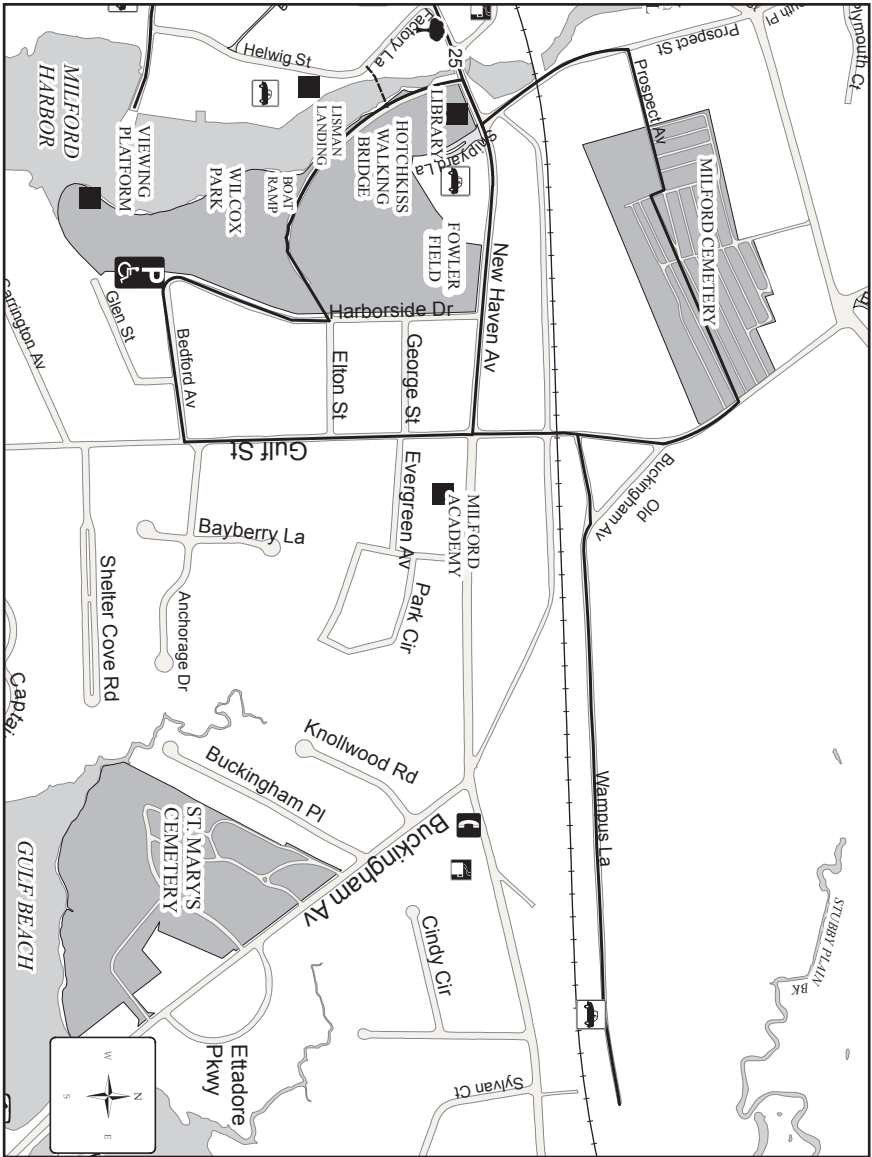
TREES LONG WALK



Milford Trees Long Favorite Walk is 3 miles.






- 1 **English Elm** - 5 Broad St., CT State Champion
- 17A **Sweetgum** - 33 N. Broad St.*
- 17B **Sweetgum** - The Green, corner of High St. & N. Broad St.
- 2 **Cucumber Magnolia** - 175 High St., 3rd largest in CT
- 19 **Ash** - 80-82 West Town St.
- 6 **Dawn Redwood** - 222 West Main St.*
- 3 **Sassafras** - 31 Gunn St., 5th largest in CT*
- 23 **Basswood/Linden** - 131 West Main St.*
- 22 **European Hornbeam** - Constitution Dr.,
Wassons Field entrance
- 21 **Pin Oak** - Constitution Dr., west side of road by Wassons Field
- 20 **Black Locust** - 70 West River St., corner of West Main St.
- 5 **Laceleaf Maple** - Across from 192 West River St.,
Upper Duck Pond area (UDP)
- 18 **Black Tupelo** - West River St., by Kissing Bridge, UDP
- 12B **Horsechestnut** - Across from 97 North St., UDP
- 16 **Japanese Zelokova** - 70 West River St., Parsons,
Three trees left of main entrance
- 8 **Japanese Tree Lilac** - 70 West River St., Parsons,
Southeast side of building.

* Private trees. Please respect and not tread on private property.
Thank you.

MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALK NO. 15



-  **Parking** - Behind Library and behind tennis courts, (with some time limits), Parsons Complex, Head of Harbor, Lisman's Milford Landing (boat sticker required), Gulf Beach - resident sticker on beach side, opposite side seasonal, On side streets
-  **Public Boat Launch**

-  **Restrooms** - Library (when open), Gulf Beach (June-October)
-  **Handicap access** - Wilcox Park
-  **Dining** - Gulf Beach stand, New Haven Ave
-  **Kayak access** - end of Wampus Lane
-  **Telephone**

VIEW MAP HORIZONTALLY

WILCOX PARK, WAMPUS LANE, AND MILFORD CEMETERY

This walk is approximately 2.5 miles.

Wilcox Park is handicapped adapted and handicap parking is available at the end of Harborside as you turn right into the park. Entering Wilcox Park from the harbor side, there is a large map on a kiosk for a self-guided tour. Additional maps are available at the recreation department. Walkers may enter via the steps in the middle of the boat ramp parking lot. Not to be missed is the viewing platform overlooking the harbor.



Egret

Exiting Wilcox Park on Bedford follow the map to Wampus Lane. Continue past the cement blocks to the end of the asphalt. On the left is an opening which is passable when there is dry weather. You will be led to a large open field with high grasses and wild flowers as well as an old loop configured road. Through the woods there is a view of Stubby Plain Brook joining the Indian River.

On your return walk through Milford Cemetery, a map is available both on a kiosk and at the cemetery office.

CIVIC WALK, UPPER AND LOWER DUCK PONDS

Civic Favorite Walk is 2.8 miles.

Park on North Street or River Street. Walk over the Wepawaug River via the 'Kissing Bridge', which originally was a covered bridge. Continue along to Founders Way and onto Maple Street. Turn right on Housatonic Avenue, and then a sharp left onto High Street.

About $\frac{3}{4}$ of your way along High Street on your left, set back, will be Laurelton Hall School. The main building is an 1864 Victorian mansion, Island View, built by Charles Pond. In 1899 Pond sold the mansion to Augusta Taylor who named it Lauralton Hall after his daughter Laura. In 1905, the Sisters of Mercy bought the mansion and grounds establishing the Catholic girls school.

Continue the route as the map directs you to North Broad Street and the Green. Note that it is a showcase for organic lawn care. Milford's is one of the largest and oldest greens in Connecticut and home to many fairs including the August Oyster Festival. It was purposely split in two so that farmers could graze sheep and cattle separately.

At the corner of North Broad and River Streets is the Chamber of Commerce building, which housed Milford's Library until 1976. It was known as the Taylor Library, after Henry Augusta Taylor, who had it built in 1895, at a cost of \$25,000. It opened with 2,000 volumes of books. The Chamber just completed interior restorations well worth seeing during normal business hours.

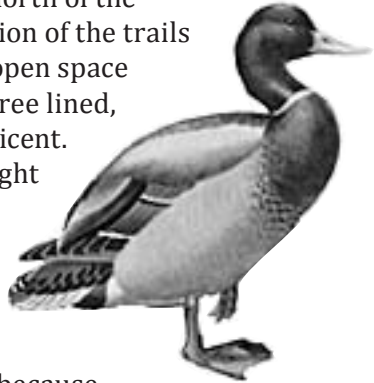
The Colonial, Victorian, Federal, and Greek revival architecture along this walk are representative of Milford. On the left on River Street the Milford Photo shop was originally constructed as a bank. As you go under the railroad overpass take the West River Street fork. Government buildings, the Post Office, Court House and City Hall, are located here. Farther up on the left is the Diane S. Toulson Building nicknamed the yellow building. Constructed in 1908 as a high school it was later used for all grades. It is currently senior housing. Next you will see the Parsons Government Office Complex, built as Milford High School in 1951 to meet an ever-growing student population.

Stay to the right of the First Church, founded in 1639 and the original meeting house for the town's settlers. Walk along the river to return to the duck pond and enjoy the geese, swans and ducks along your way.

UPPER DUCK POND AND BEYOND

The Upper Duck Pond and Beyond Favorite Walk is 3.3 miles.

This is one of the few walking routes north of the Connecticut Turnpike, with the exception of the trails in Eisenhower Park and surrounding open space areas. All the streets in this walk are tree lined, many of which are mature and magnificent. If you take this walk in the fall, you might see some beautiful fall foliage.



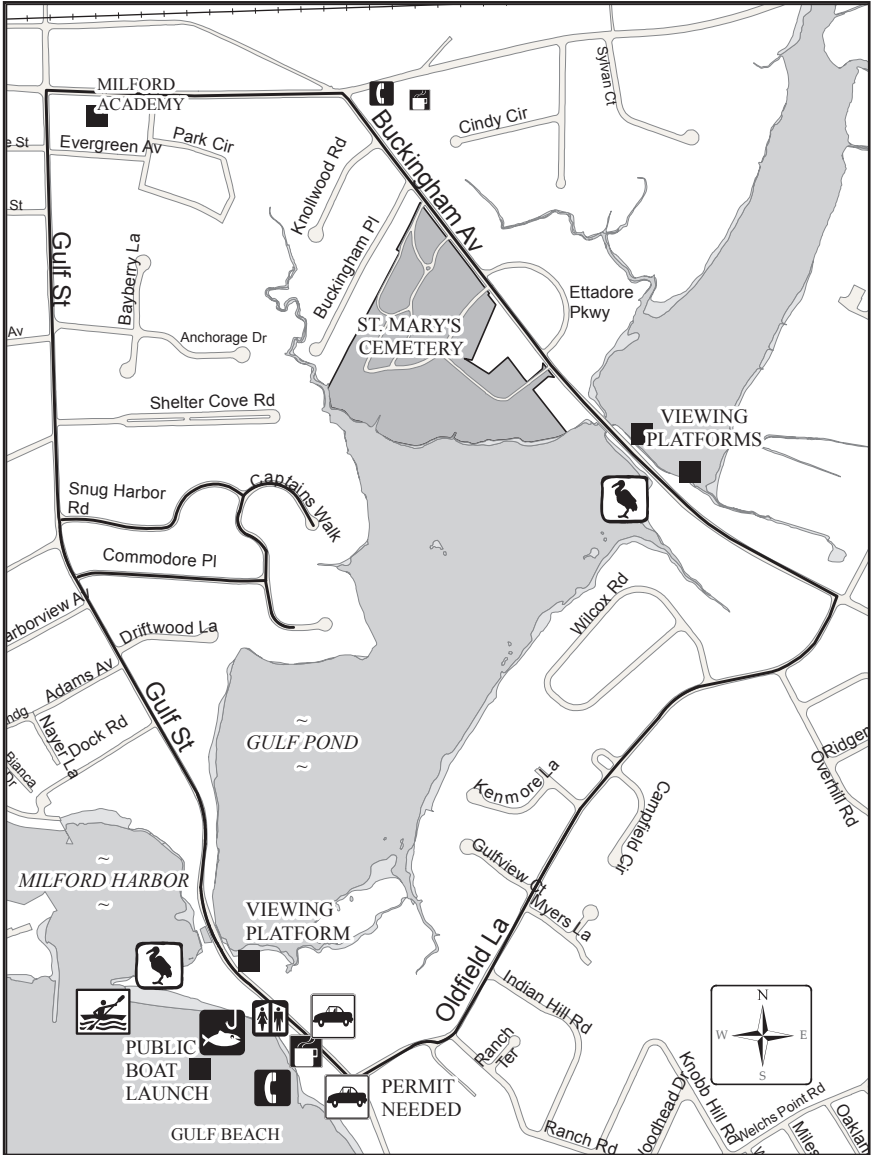
Mallard Duck





To start this longer walk via West River Street, park on North Street across from the Duck Pond with a view of the Kissing Bridge - so named because the original bridge was covered. Here you can enjoy the antics of the ducks, geese and swans. Caution: if you feed the birds we suggest you save the last bit of food to throw from the car - these guys can get aggressive and don't understand that the feeding is over!





Walk north on West River Street to Fresh Meadow Lane. When crossing the Post Road each time, please use the walk signal. You will pass Mathewson School, which also offers parking if you should choose to start your walking loop here. The rural flavor of Fresh Meadow will charm and surprise you. Take a left off Fresh Meadow onto Wheelers Farm Road, which turns into High Street as you head south. Follow High to Maple Street back to the Duck Pond.

The Duck Pond is stocked each spring for the first day of the fishing season, which draws large crowds. In December, neighbors gather at the pond for carols and a tree lighting ceremony.

MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALK NO. 18



-  **Parking** - Gulf Beach - resident sticker on beach side, opposite side seasonal
-  **Parking** - On side streets
-  **Dining** - Gulf Beach Stand, New Haven Avenue
-  **Restrooms** - Gulf Beach (seasonal)

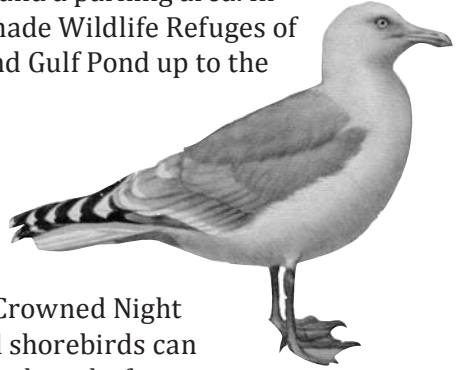
-  **Viewing Platforms** - Gulf Beach and Buckingham Avenue
-  **Fishing Platform** - Gulf Beach
-  **Boat Ramp**
-  **Historic sites**

GULF BEACH & GULF POND LOOP

The Gulf Beach and Gulf Pond Loop Favorite Walk is a total 2.7 miles.

Begin this walk at Gulf Beach, a public beach with a fishing pier, refreshment stand, restrooms, and a parking area. In 1931 the State of Connecticut made Wildlife Refuges of Milford Harbor, Wilcox Park, and Gulf Pond up to the railroad bridge.

Birding from Gulf Street you might see Osprey on the platform or the perch. Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Black and Yellow Crowned Night Herons, all kinds of plovers and shorebirds can be seen. In addition, there is another platform at Buckingham Avenue where you can view Great Egrets, Killdeers, Great Blue Herons and Kingfishers, as well as the Osprey nest.



Herring Gull

In the summer you may see Laughing Gulls with their black heads and darker mantle (back). Year round you will see Herring, Ring-billed, and Great Black Backed Seagulls.

Walk out to the light at the entrance of the harbor and for double crested Cormorants, black Ducks, red-breasted mergansers, horned grebe, or even loons in the winter. Old Squaw, Goldeneye, and even Scoters can be seen in a severe winter off Gulf Beach.

Off of Gulf there is an interesting Loop – Snug Harbor Road and returning via Commodore Place. You will find sidewalks on Gulf Street, New Haven and Buckingham Avenues.

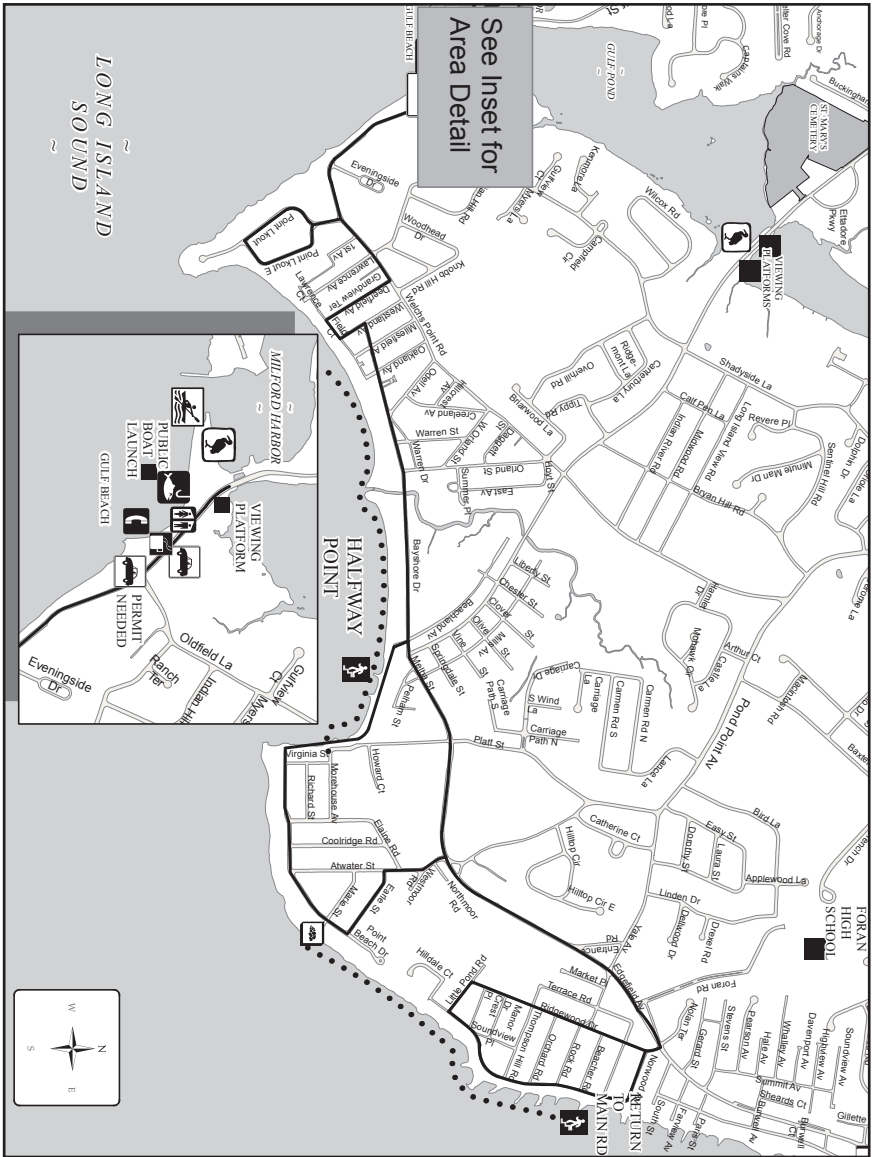
Other points of interest/ Historical sites:






166 Gulf Street – Treat House c. 1785

234 Gulf Street – Anthony Stow/Buckingham House, c. 1790

250 Gulf Street – Elijah Bryon House, c.1790

MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALK NO. 19



-  Restrooms - Gulf Beach
-  Phones
-  Parking - Gulf Beach - resident sticker on beach side, opposite side seasonal
On side streets
-  Stairway – Pelham Street
Norwood Avenue
-  Rocky Shoreline
Seawall

VIEW MAP HORIZONTALLY

GULF BEACH TO MORNINGSIDE

Gulf Beach to Morningside Favorite Walk is about 4 miles, Buckingham is the half way mark.

You may begin this walk at Gulf Beach, a public beach. If it's hot, take a swim. Proceed with caution as the road curves and it becomes difficult to see oncoming cars and for the motorist to see you. Along this vista, we have been promised at some future date, a boardwalk to view the Sound and Charles Island. By following the dots you can take interesting detours. You have the choice of walking on the beach between Deerfield and either exiting at Orland, or if you don't mind wet feet proceed to Beachland Ave. or Pelham St. or Platt. It is well marked with symbols. If Monk parakeets interest you, stop at Pelham St.



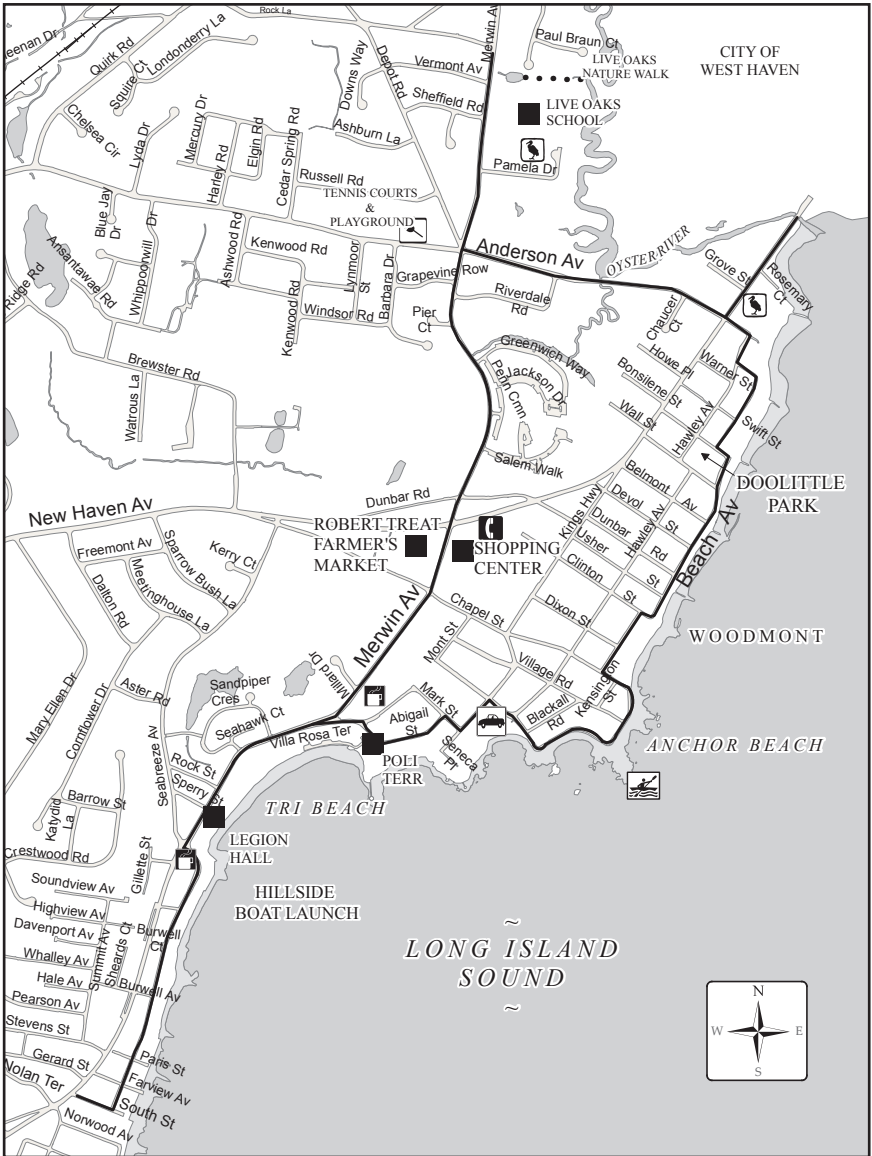
Red-throated Loon







If you like a challenging beach walk on and around large rocks and climbing onto the wall and abutment along Morningside, which will then be flat except for climbing around a large drain pipe along the way. There are exit stairs along the way or go to the end and exit onto the road which leads you back to Edgefield Ave.



During the winter, you may observe Red-breasted Mergansers, Goldeneye Ducks, Common and Red-throated Loons, Horned Grebes and ducks and geese. At Morningside, you may see the Greater Scaup (diving ducks). In the late summer or early fall, look for Sandpipers and Egrets around Bayview Beach.

Enlarged Map available on website.

MILFORD'S FAVORITE WALK NO. 20

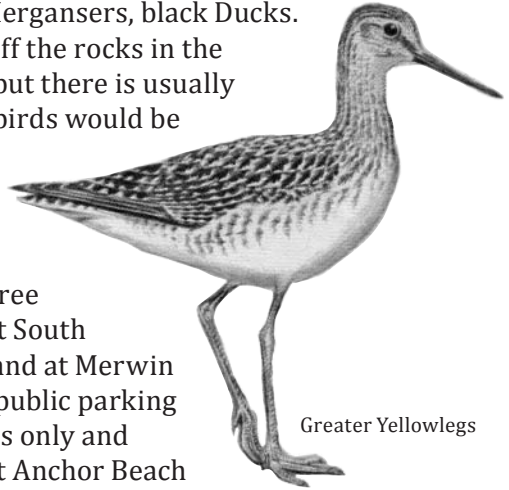


-  **Dining**
-  **Shopping Mall**
-  **Robert Treat Farm, Garden Market**
-  **Telephones**
-  **Birding**
-  **Tennis Courts**

-  **Parking -**
- Hillside Avenue - On street parking
- Anchor Beach - Resident sticker required
- Beach Avenue - Side streets only
-  **Boat Ramp**

The South Street, Anchor & Woodmont Beaches Favorite Walk is approximately 2.5 miles in length.

Birders should watch for Brant Geese, Gadwall Ducks, Wigeon Ducks, Red-Breasted Mergansers, black Ducks. Common loons are often seen off the rocks in the winter. Seals are less common but there is usually one sighting per winter. Rarer birds would be purple Sandpiper, common Elder Ducks and Pintail Ducks.



Greater Yellowlegs

Begin this walk at any of the three **ACCESSES TO THE BEACHES**: at South Street, the Hillside boat ramp, and at Merwin Avenue (Legion Hall). There is public parking off Beach Avenue on side streets only and along Hillside Street. Parking at Anchor Beach requires a Resident Sticker. The **EXIT FROM THE BEACH** is at Abigail Street and Villa Rosa Terrace.

Walk up the stairs to Villa Rosa Terrace from the beach, keeping the Poli Mansion on your right and Poli Terrace (private road) to your left. Take a right turn on Abigail Street and follow the map dots to the Oyster River where you can feed the swans and other migratory birds. On your return via Anderson Ave. you will see more marshes, migratory birds and cranes.

Enjoy a beautiful nature walk starting at Live Oaks School. Behind the school follow the pond to the trail and to Oyster River.

On Beach Avenue, you can see green Monk parakeets in the evergreens. A walk in the opposite direction will bring you to the lovely summer gardens of South Street, which was the recipient two years running of the highly valued “Freedom Lawn” award. This is a street award given for nonuse of pesticides.

BEACHES OF WOODMONT

The Beaches of Woodmont Favorite Walk is 3.75 miles.

Begin this walk at Anchor Beach and continue in any direction you choose. Woodmont is unique because it is a borough officially established June 8, 1903. What put Woodmont on the map were the trolleys which extended from New Haven, Woodmont, and Milford. The owners of the Electric Street Railway had a vision of picnickers and sunbathers. This is still true today. Woodmont borders the coastline of the Long Island Sound and the shoreline. What comes to mind are the gorgeous shoreline homes, Anchor Beach, Signal Rock, Potato Rock, The Umbrella Tree, and the Poli Mansion.



Aster

The theatre magnate Sylvester Poli built the Villa Rosa Mansion, with mini cottages for his New Haven based family along Abigail Street in 1906 to 1912. Allegedly Clark Gable, Carole Lombard, Douglas Fairbanks, and W.C. Fields were entertained in the elegant Italian stucco and orange roofed Mansion.

This map is a historic map of Trolley lines and homes. Most of these buildings are no longer there however the beaches, firehouse, and Borough Hall still remain.

MILFORD'S FAVORITE BIKE ROUTES NO. 22-25

22. FOLKS ON SPOKES (FOS) AND FOLKS ON FOOT (FOF)

Folks on Spokes (FOS) and Folks on Foot (FOF) are 5 miles, 10 miles, 20 miles, and 40 miles.

Folks on Spokes (FOS) and Folks on Foot (FOF) were started 14 years ago as a fund-raiser for Bridges. Bridges is a community support system that provides a comprehensive range of outpatient mental health, addiction, community support and home-based services for children, families and adults residing in Milford, Orange, West Haven and their surrounding communities.

FOS/FOF is an annual event, typically held in the month of September or October, featuring walk and ride routes. The organization also sponsors year round rides and walks that run throughout the city, predominately starting at Fowler Field in the downtown area. However, you can begin the routes anywhere between the east and west borders of Milford. Just look for the blue and white signs marked FOS and follow the arrows. There are several routes of varying distance – 5 miles, 10 miles, 20 miles and 40 miles long.

We have included the largest map of FOS destinations at the back of this book. See center spread of book for overview map of Milford bike trails.

23. MILFORD TRAILS 1 AND 2

Milford Trails are part of the PED Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee to evaluate on and off road trails, and to lay a network of trails that are safe and attractive. They will work with the city and other groups to promote the knowledge and use of the trails. There is a West Loop, East Loop, and connections to the East Coast Greenway. Eventually, also a connection with the Merritt Parkway Bridge (Sikorsky) crossing. This is a work in progress, with maps found at: www.us.milford.gov, www.milfordecc.com

24. COG

(South Central Regional Council of Governments) Regional Trails <http://www.scrkog.org/Trails.htm>

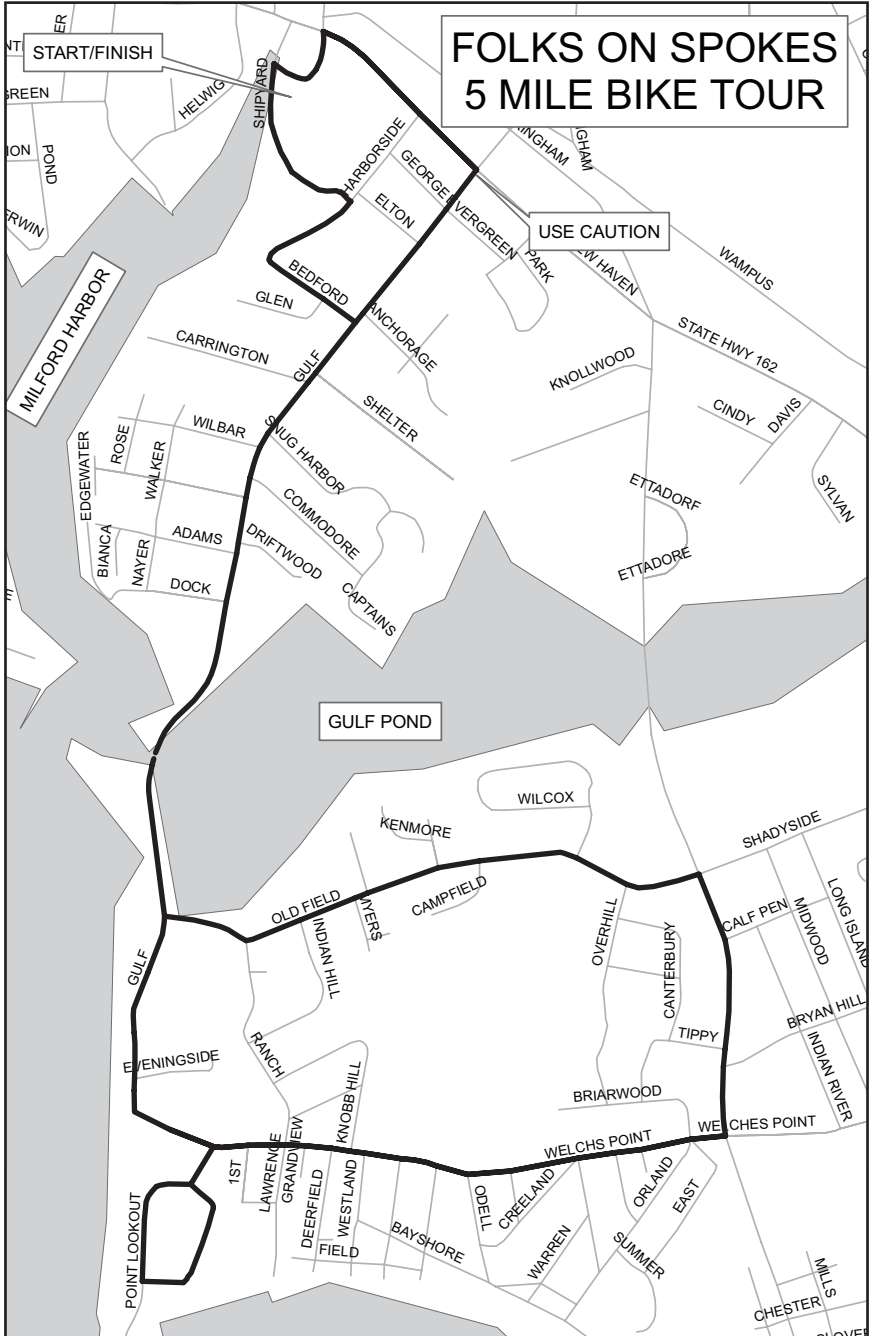
The Regional Trails Map and brochures are a culmination of work by SCRCOG staff and the Open Space Subcommittee members in collaboration with municipal staff, local land trusts, and conservation commission members, Birmingham Utilities, and the Regional Water Authority. Each member town is represented by at least one trail and each of the pocket sized brochures includes a map of the trail, descriptive information, directions and parking information, and permitted uses. All trail maps are available for download and are best printed double sided then folded to pocket size.

25. EAST COAST GREENWAY

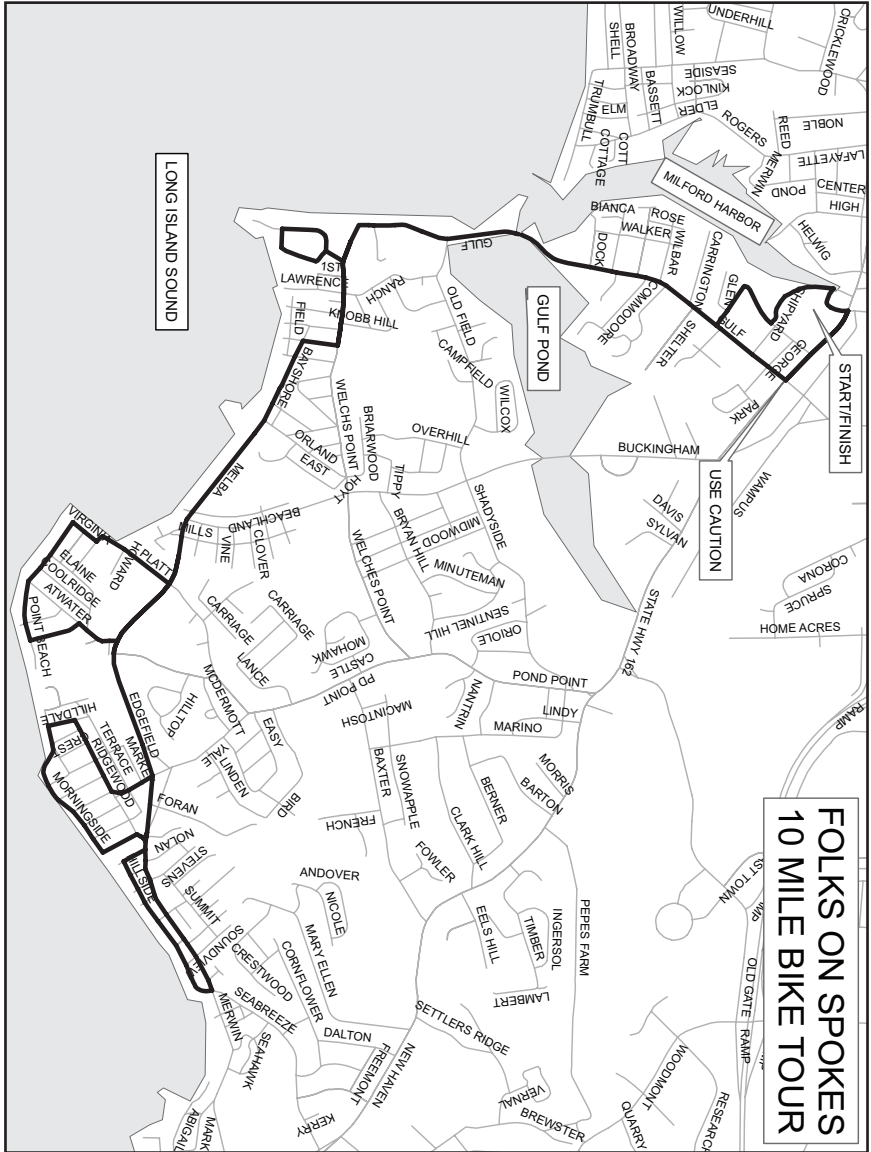
Linking cities from Maine to Florida www.greenway.org

This is intended to be an off road system and we have been given permission for an interim on-road trail system until we get the former completed. Aiming to connect cities and towns of the East Coast with a continuous, traffic-free path, the East Coast Greenway spans 3,000 miles from Calais, Maine to Key West, Florida. With nearly one-fifth of the ECG on traffic-free paths, and the rest mapped out on interim roads, people and communities all along the East Coast are already enjoying the Greenway's many health and economic benefits. But still, there's much to be done. We are part of "Close the Gaps" campaign.

5 MILE FOS BIKE ROUTE MAP



10 MILE FOS BIKE ROUTE MAP





40 MILE BIKE ROUTE MAP

FOS (FOLKS ON SPOKES) / FOF (FOLKS ON FOOT)

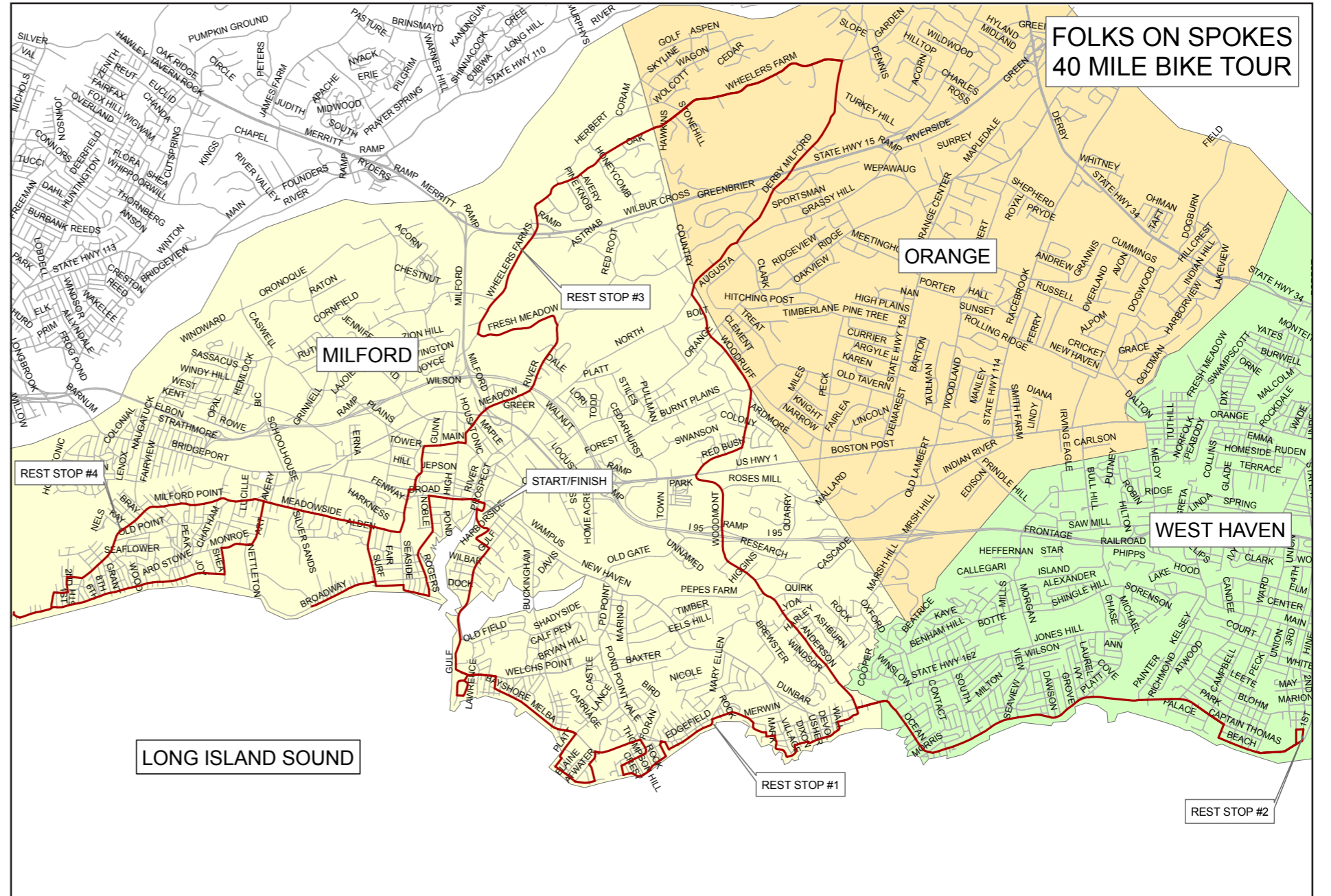


Photo by Jeanne Cervin