

State of Connecticut Officially Designated Greenways within Study Area

Farmington River Trail – Located for the most part along an abandoned railroad right of way and with numerous views of the Farmington River, this trail loops off of the Farmington Canal Heritage Greenway from Farmington to Simsbury. When complete, it will offer a 16-mile path for walking, biking, and other activities.

Farmington Canal Heritage Greenway – Running the length of the state from New Haven to Suffield, this trail follows the path of the 19th century Farmington Canal. Converted to rail use until 1982, the corridor was saved for public use by a coalition of citizens and converted to a recreation path.

Metacomet Ridge System – A “spine” of traprock ridges that runs from Suffield south to East Haven and Guilford, the Metacomet Ridge is one of the state’s most familiar geologic features. Traprock ridges provide habitats for many types of plants and animals, but they are not immune from development pressures. Seventeen of the towns through which the ridge passes have signed a compact to work towards protection of this system.

Blue Blazed Trail System – Working with public and private landowners, the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association has put together over 700 miles of hiking trails over the past 70 years. Today, however, many of these trails are endangered by development. The CFPA is striving to assure that new connections can be found when trail sections are interrupted.

Shade Swamp Sanctuary - Shade Swamp Sanctuary is an 800-acre preserve owned by the DEP and managed with assistance from the Farmington Garden Club. The Sanctuary provide habitat protection for wildlife, and there is a nature trail on the site. This property will eventually link with the Farmington Canal and the Farmington River Trails.

Salmon Brook, Granby – The Salmon Brook is arguably the most important tributary of the lower Farmington River for its high-quality habitat and water quality. The Salmon Brook corridor has a higher percentage of forest cover than that of the lower Farmington. The water-filtering effect of forested land, plus the shading and tree debris it provides to the streams, is conducive to both high water quality and good fish habitat. The quality of habitat is reflected in the diversity of fish species. Salmon Brook is judged to be an excellent nursery for juvenile salmon and a future spawning habitat for a restored salmon population. The DEP stocks salmon fry here every year.

West Mountain Trails, Simsbury - Simsbury Land Trust's West Mountain Trails are a series of hiking trails connecting the land trust's trailhead at 60 Westledge Road in West Simsbury, on the south, with Town of Simsbury open space at the north end of North Saddle Ridge Drive. The walks include a short loop, formed by the yellow trail and part of the red trail, within the 33-acre 60 Westledge Road property. The walk, in the floodplain and along the banks of Hop Brook, provides a woodland experience even to less robust walkers. The more taxing red trail continues north along the ridgeline, affording excellent views across the Farmington Valley and beyond. Walkers seeking only the ridgeline hike can achieve some variety by returning to the trailhead via the green trail. The blue trail takes walkers into a rift valley of great geological importance and along the foot of a splendid talus slope. The red and blue trails are connected near their north ends by the white trail, which gives access to North Saddle Ridge Drive and its adjacent neighborhoods.

(Source: CT Department of Environmental Protection Website)