



## Trail Hike Series 2024

Join the Thursday Hikers for *free* guided trail hikes on Thursday mornings. These hikes begin at 10:00 AM unless otherwise stated and leave promptly, so please arrive on time. This group will visit various local conservation properties, including some Westerly Land Trust (WLT) preserves. If you would like to lead a hike for the next series, please provide Sally with a date and a blurb.

### Important Notes

- o **Sign Up Required:** Sign up with listed hike leader so they know how many are coming. If no one signs up the leader may not show up. Thursday hike is FREE.
- o **Distance/ Target Group:** Walks are 1 ½ to 3 hours and are open to all ages with the target group being agile seniors.
- o **Estimated Times:** Ending times are estimated as it is difficult to ascertain when it will finish due to number of people, how fast/slow the hikers walk, etc. Hikes leave promptly.
- o **Inclement weather:** Inclement weather cancels and if in doubt, contact the leader.
- o **Dogs:** If you wish to bring a dog, contact the leader as some properties do not allow them. If a dog is present, they must be leashed at all times.
- o **Trail Safety:** These are wooded trails with stumps, roots and rocks so be sure to wear hiking boots or good walking shoes. Make sure you bring water and a snack if you want one.
- o **Snow:** If there is a lot of snow consider bringing snowshoes, stabilizers, or something for traction.
- o **Thursday hike/WLT events:** [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up for WLT's email list and receive a monthly email including Thursday hike schedule and other WLT events/programs.

### Fluorescent Orange Requirements

In State Management areas everyone is required to wear 200 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange from the second Saturday in September to the last day of February and the last Thursday in April to the last day in May, annually.

### Details

March 7 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Burlingame North, Charlestown

This 4-mile walk will be entirely north of Buckeye Brook Road, and take us past a stone dam, streams, and campsites along the Pawcatuck River. Terrain is stable, but hilly. Park at the Burlingame North Trailhead parking on the north side of Buckeye Brook Road, 1.9 miles east of its intersection with RI 216; and 0.8 miles west of the Shumankanuc Road intersection.  
41.398662, -71.701515

Leader: Jeff Walker Phone: (401) 447-1879 Email: [jeffrey.walker@cox.net](mailto:jeffrey.walker@cox.net)

March 14 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Grills Preserve, Bradford

This walk on WLT's 500-acre preserve is over primarily flat terrain often along the Pawcatuck River on clear, wide trails. We will be able to see some newly discovered foundations. There is a gorgeous scenic view from the top of aptly named, Big Hill, which requires a bit of steep climbing. Meet at the parking lot at the cul-de-sac end off Bowling Lane in Bradford Village.

Leader: Marc Doherty Phone: (508) 308-9787 Email: [mdoherty@westerlylandtrust.org](mailto:mdoherty@westerlylandtrust.org)

March 21 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Trustom Pond, South Kingstown

This is a flat, easy walk around RI's only undeveloped salt pond with lots of opportunity for spotting waterfowl and other birds. Trustom Pond is a National Wildlife Refuge located in South

Kingstown. Meet at Trustom Pond's parking area on Matunuck Schoolhouse Road by taking the Moonstone Beach exit off Route 1 and continue for 1 mile. At the four way stop, turn right onto Matunuck Schoolhouse Road and then continue for 1 more mile where the refuge entrance is on the left. N 41° 22.993' W. 071° 35.133'

**Leaders:** Sue & Geoff Sewall      **Phone:** (401) 377-2826      **Email:** [suemsew@gmail.com](mailto:suemsew@gmail.com)

**March 28      10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Riverwood Preserve, Westerly**

This property is part of the Westerly Land Trust's Pawcatuck River Corridor Initiative. It consists of 148 acres of woodland, rocky ridges and fresh water wetlands adjacent to the Pawcatuck River and the Boy Scout Camp. It has interesting quarry remnants, river views and descent through a beautiful gorge. Some climbing in rocky areas may be involved as the best views are from the higher elevations. Meet on Old Hopkinton Road at the end of Boy Scout Drive. Please park along the road - we will walk into the preserve from there.

**Leader:** Sally Hanson      **Phone:** (401) 932-5295      **Email:** [sallyhanson242@gmail.com](mailto:sallyhanson242@gmail.com)

**April 4      10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge, Charlestown**

This is a flat easy walk over grassy trails and old runways from the former Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field to Grassy Point on Ninigret Pond, the largest coastal salt pond in RI. Then we'll hike over to the fishing access area and follow the Foster Cove Trail back. It'll be about 4 miles total. Hundreds of species of birds have been recorded at this refuge. Meet at the West Entrance off Rte 1 South. (The Refuge is South of Ninigret Park and has a separate entrance.)

**Leader:** David Prigmore      **Phone:** (401)348-2855      **Email:** [d.bprigmore@gmail.com](mailto:d.bprigmore@gmail.com)

**April 11      10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Don Henne Preserve, Babcock Ridge Preserve & Erisman Woodlands, North Stonington, CT - Leaving Park & Ride @ 9:45 AM - carpooling required**

These are Avalonia Land Conservancy preserves. We will do a portion of Don Henne Preserve then go to Babcock Ridge. Babcock Ridge: Sloping, rocky uplands, high ridge vistas. Intermittent wetlands and vernal pool. Loop trail. Connects with Erisman Woodlands at northern high border along ridge. Part of large contiguous greenway. Erisman Woodlands: Mostly upland woods with loop trail crossing stream and heading up to Babcock Ridge shared border and connecting trail. Rugged, sloping wooded uplands. **Due to limited or very limited parking everyone must meet at Park & Ride at the junction of CT Rte 2 and I-95, carpool from there.**

**Leader:** Sally Hanson      **Phone:** (401) 932-5295      **Email:** [sallyhanson242@gmail.com](mailto:sallyhanson242@gmail.com)

**April 18      10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Canonchet Brook Preserve, Hopkinton**

This walk will be on a 4.5 mile loop. We will pass a stone bridge, remains of a sawmill, old foundations, and glacial erratics. Terrain is rugged with hills and rocks. Park at Canonchet Brook Preserve, Route 3, 0.7 mi southbound from I-95 Exit 4 connector (Woodville Alton Rd). 41.482121, -71.747254

**Leader:** Jeff Walker      **Phone:** (401) 447-1879      **Email:** [jeffrey.walker@cox.net](mailto:jeffrey.walker@cox.net)

**April 25      10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Flora Whiteley/Cottrell Preserve, Westerly**

The WLT's Flora Whitely Preserve abuts the Pawcatuck River upstream of the Potter Hill dam and features a boat portage at the bridge. The WLT Cottrell Preserve is 21 acres which is boarded on the north by the Pawcatuck River and on the south by the Westerly Ton Forest. It will be a moderate woods walk. Parking is still a challenge so we will meet at Flora Whitely Preserve on Potter Hill Road.

**Leader:** Emma Stahl      **Phone:** (401) 477-4249      **Email:** [estahl@westerlylandtrust.org](mailto:estahl@westerlylandtrust.org)