



## March/ April Trail Hike Series 2025

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 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.
- o Thursday hikes are **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 **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 must 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 6 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Wahanetta Preserve, Westerly**

**Leader:** Deirdre O'Connor **Phone:** 860 287-7281 **Email:** [deirdreo@snet.net](mailto:deirdreo@snet.net) (preferred)

Let's wander the varied trails of this former Girl Scout Camp, Homestead and Saw Mill. Trails are well maintained with mostly gentle ups and downs. Parking will be available at Wahaneeta Preserve, 118 Moorehouse Road, Westerly. Gate will be open; drive through the gate and park in the field. Meet at the cabin just up from the parking area.

**March 13 10:00 AM - 11:30AM Black Point, Narragansett**

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

Easy 2.5 mile walk on a mix of beach and gravel trails. Mostly very flat terrain with spectacular ocean views from the Black Point trails. Meet and park in the Scarborough Beach Parking Lot, 970 Ocean Road, Narragansett. Start of walk is at GPS 41.389490, -71.472754

**March 20 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Grills Preserve, Westerly**

**Leader:** Casey Merkle **Phone:** (847) 970-0229 **Email:** [coordinator@wpwildrivers.org](mailto:coordinator@wpwildrivers.org)

This walk on WLT's 500-acre preserve is over primarily flat terrain often along the *Wild and Scenic* Pawcatuck River on clear, wide trails. We should be able to see most of the popular attractions, including the Polly Coon Bridge, the Larkin Foundation dating from the 1660s, and views from Big Hill after a short but steep climb. Meet at the parking lot at the cul-de-sac at the end of Bowling Lane in Bradford Village.

**March 27 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Burlingame North from Buckeye Brook Road, Charlestown**

**Leader:** Janice Fifer **Phone:** (401) 213-6479 **Email:** [jhfifer@verizon.net](mailto:jhfifer@verizon.net)

This hike will take us over a bit of the Vin Gormley and Schoolhouse trails and then down several unnamed trails past some very interesting ruins. The trail is an undulating one so if snowy or icy bring stabilizers and/or sticks. The hike will be about 3 1/2 miles with an option to extend it to 5 if we want. Directions - Meet at the parking lot on the north side of Buckeye Brook Road 1.5 miles from its intersection with Rte 216.

**April 3 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Herman E. Sheets Family Preserve, North Stonington, CT**

**Leader:** Deirdre O'Connor **Phone:** 860 287-7281 **Email:** [deirdreo@snet.net](mailto:deirdreo@snet.net) (preferred)

This preserve offers an enchanting hike through a mixed forest and features vernal pools, active beaver dams, high views of the Green Fall River and various stone foundations of Laurel Glen one of North Stonington's original villages. The hike is 2.5 - 3.0 miles on a variety of surfaces including packed dirt, grass, pine needles, small boardwalks, occasional rocks and roots, lots of short ups and downs and a switchback or two making it somewhere between easy and slightly moderate in difficulty. The trailhead and parking are located at the mailbox of 94 Puttker Rd, just off of Denison Hill Road. Parking is limited, if you are able, please carpool. Leashed dogs permitted.

**April 10 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Tillinghast Management Area, West Greenwich**

**Leader:** Janice Fifer **Phone:** (401) 213-6479 **Email:** [jhfifer@verizon.net](mailto:jhfifer@verizon.net)

This hike will be between 4 to 5 miles thru woods and around pond. Directions: From I-95 take Exit take Exit 14B (Rte 102 North). Follow Rte 102 for 3 miles, past the West Greenwich Town Hall. Turn left onto Plain Meeting House Road, follow for 3.9 miles. You will pass the Wickboxet Management Area and the entrance to Narrow Lane. Turn right at the next intersection, onto Plain Road. Follow Plain Road for 1/2 mile to the parking lot on the right.

**April 17 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Grills Wildlife Sanctuary, Hopkinton (222 Chase Hill Rd)**

**Leaders:** Sue & Geoff Sewall **Phone:** [401 377-2826](tel:4013772826) (h)

3-5 miles, easy to moderate. The Hopkinton Land Trust trails follow the Pawcatuck River and Tomaquag Brook. We will cross the brook and hike to the Polly Coon Bridge that leads to the Westerly Land Trust Grills Preserve. Directions: From Westerly, take Rte 91 to Bradford. After crossing the river into Hopkinton take a left onto Rte 216. Go .8 mile to a left onto Chase Hill Road. The sanctuary is on the left before the bridge from points north. I-95 S, Exit 1 (which is Rte 3), to Rte 216 in Ashaway (this is a left hand turn), in about 2.5 miles at the intersection of Chase Hill Road is where we will meet. N 41° 24.647' N W 71° 4581'

**April 24 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Wahaneeta/ Woody Hill, Westerly**

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

This walk goes through Wahaneeta Preserve and adjacent Woody Hill Management Area. The hike is about 4 miles long and will go past interesting geological features, foundations from the 1800s, remains of an old quarry, and the Woody Hill Marsh. Moderate terrain with several flat sections on dirt roads, but note there are also a few short hill climbs. Meet and park at Wahaneeta Preserve, 118 Moorehouse Road, Westerly. The gate will be open; drive through the gate, turn left, park in the field at Wahaneeta.