



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 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 **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 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.
- 500 square inches by all hunters (including archers) and all users of management areas and undeveloped state parks during all portions of shotgun deer seasons.

Details

November 6 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Carolina North trails, Richmond

About four miles of hiking over gentle terrain in the Hope Valley/Richmond area. Meet at the DEM station on south side of Pine Hill Road, and we will head north on the RI North-South trail. Ponds, rocky ledges, pine forests and wide gravel trails in abundance. 41.46621° N, 71.69118° W

Leader: Bruno Hancock

Phone: 860 501-0472 **Email:** brunohancock58@gmail.com

November 13 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Limit is 14 people. Native American Ceremonial Stonework near Beach Pond in Exeter - We will leave the parking lot at 9:00 AM.

This hike will go to two large cairn fields and we will see a few other types of ceremonial structures left behind by the indigenous peoples of the area, but overall this hike is really about cairns, the most common of all the more than twenty types of structures they built throughout New England. As with most of my walks, some of this will be on an old farm road, but much of it will be off-trail, so hiking sticks and suitable shoes are heartily recommended. Although the hike is short in distance covered, it will take about 2.5-3 hours at a leisurely pace to see and discuss the stonework we will encounter. We will meet at the Roscoe M. Dexter Deep Pond Parking lot, 2728 Ten Rod Road, Exeter, RI. It is very hard to see the entrance to it as the sign is buried in trees and is brown. If you are coming from the Connecticut side of Beach Pond, the parking lot is on the right about .75 miles once you leave the causeway across the pond. If you're coming from Rhode Island from the east, I have no idea, but if you hit the pond turn around and go back about .75 miles. Rain cancels the hike, but if unsure of the weather, you can text my number the morning of the hike after 6:00 AM to see if it is a go.

Leader: Mark Starr

Phone: 860-908-3870 for text messages

November 20 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Mount Tom, Exeter

4 mile hilly loop hike to explore trails on Mount Tom and nearby granite ledges. Sandy trails, pine forests, granite bluffs, and mature woodlands. Meet at DEM parking area by the Wood River, Ten Rod Road, Exeter 41.57294° N, 71.72138° W

Leader: Bruno Hancock **Phone:** 860 501-0472

Email: brunohancock58@gmail.com

November 27 HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Friday, November 28 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Turkey Trot @ Wahaneeta Preserve/Woody Hill Management Area, Westerly

This is a walking tour of the WLT's Wahaneeta Preserve and a section of the adjoining Woody Hill Management Area. Parking will be available at Wahaneeta Preserve, 118 Moorehouse Road. The gate will be open; drive through the gate and park in the field at Wahaneeta. **All parking must be inside Preserve.**

Leader: Sally Hanson

Phone: 401 932-5395

Email: sallyhanson242@gmail.com

December 4 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Crown Farm Preserve, Hopkinton

A moderate 2.5 mile walk in part of Hopkinton Land Trust's North - South Tomaquag Valley Greenway featuring a Native American cemetery. Directions from Westerly: Rte 91 to Bradford, left on Rte 216N, .3 mi. to right on Tomaquag Road, 1.2 mi. to parking lot on right. From points north: I-95S to exit 2, left onto Woodville - Alton Road, past Woodville Road, to left on Collins Road, right on Rte 91, right on Rte 216N, .3 mile to right on Tomaquag Road, and 1.2 mile to parking lot on right.

Leaders: Sue & Geoff Sewall

Phone: 401 377-2826

Email: suemsew@gmail.com

December 11 10:00 AM - 12:30PM

Grills to Grills, Hopkinton / Westerly

For something different, this 4-5 mile walk will be a point-to-point (one way) walk, visiting a few highlights in both the Grills Wildlife Sanctuary in Hopkinton and the Grills Preserve in Westerly. Most of the trail will be on flat single-track, but there are some hilly sections. Hopefully not an issue, but please note this walk only works if you're willing to have someone ride in your car in one direction, and ride in someone else's in the opposite direction. Meet and park in the Grills Preserve dirt parking lot at 198 Bowling Lane, Westerly. From there, we will leave roughly half the cars behind and caravan to the Grills Wildlife Sanctuary trailhead, where we will start our walk.

Leader: Jeff Walker

Phone: 401-447-1879

Email: Jeffrey.walker@cox.net

December 18 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Champlin Farm Preserve, Westerly

This will be the first walk at the newly acquired Champlin Farm Preserve at 64 Boombridge Road in Westerly. The entrance is just north of a swamp area on the west side of Boombridge Road. Take the dirt road up the hill to parking at the top of the hill. The walk is through the woods, past granite outcropping, along the Pawcatuck River and past the gravel pit. It is moderate walking on new trails.

Leader: David Prigmore

Phone: 401348-2855

Email: d.bprigmore@gmail.com

December 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!