



Trail Hike Series 2026

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 or co-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 **Snow/ice:** If there is a lot of snow/ice please bring 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

January 1 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: Janice Fifer **Phone:** (401) 213-6479 **Email:** jhfifer@verizon.net

January 8 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Native American Ceremonial Stonework hike at Wyassup Lake, North Stonington, CT; Group size limited to 12, YOU MUST SIGN UP

This is another hike to see some of the Native American ceremonial stonework still standing but long abandoned in the woods all around us. The hike is mostly off-trail and in hilly terrain, and some sections are a bit strenuous. Hike can take up to three hours depending upon the fitness of the group. Hiking sticks very strongly recommended. Due to the terrain, rain or snow cancels the hike until a make-up day is arranged. If weather is questionable on the day of the hike, you can text my cell after 6:00 AM for confirmation. Location of Start: 145 Wyassup Lake Road, North Stonington, CT. We will park and leave from the Wyassup Lake boat launch parking lot.

Leader: Mark Starr **Phone:** 860-908-3870 **Email:** Jstarr@snet.net

January 15 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Westerly Town Forest, Westerly

Westerly Town Forest Trail is a **2.8 mile lightly trafficked loop trail that features a river**. This is a quaint spot for anyone who finds solace when venturing into the woods. Bonus: The Conservation Commission just installed new trail markers! Directions: from Potter Hill Road, turn onto Laurel Avenue, parking area will be on your left. Co-Leaders: Sue & Geoff Sewall, 401-377-2826 (h)

Leader: Casey Merkle

Phone: 847 970-0229

Email: coordinator@wpwildrivers.org

January 22 10:00 - 12:30 Tri-Town Forest Preserve, North Stonington, CT (91 Miller Road)

Once again we will be hiking these trails with Carl who laid them out plus a newer section that we haven't done. The property straddles Griswold, North Stonington and Preston covering 527 acres. It is a well blazed trail system with diverse topography. We will head up the central Red Axis Road from the lot and head over to Lost Pond on the Yellow. Then through Oak Alley, continuing along the Yellow Trail south of the bog to the cut-off of the Blue Trail. Then proceed south to the foundation and west to the Axis Road and to the lot. Some splendid native stonework to be seen here. Directions from Westerly: Rte 2 West, to where Rte 201 cuts off to the right up the hill at traffic light (Cossaduck Hill Road). Follow Rte 201 towards Griswold and turn left onto Miller Road just past the turn off for Billings Lane. The parking lot is where Miller Road sharply bends (look for mailbox on right numbered 90). OR take Exit 92 north from I-95 and continue on Route 2 West then follow above directions. **Alternate route:** Follow above directions, once you are on Rte 201 North, turn left onto Northwest Corner Road, turn right onto Miller Road, at sharp corner you will see mailbox numbered 85 on left side, parking lot entrance right after that on same side.

Leader: Carl Tjerandsen

Phone: 860) 608-7224

Email: ctjerandsen@gmail.com

January 29 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Green Falls Pond, CT & RI

We will hike a loop, about 4.3 miles, around Green Falls pond, with views of the lake, a waterfall and a wooded gorge. DIRECTIONS: meet on Camp Yawgoo Road at the CT/RI border (51.52681° N, 71.79221° W).

Leader: Bruno Hancock

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

February 5 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge, South Kingstown

Come and walk about 3 miles on easy level trails in this National Wildlife Refuge known for its abundance of wildlife and varied habitats that protects Rhode Island's only undeveloped salt pond. While it's visitors vary, we are likely to see and hear several species of winter water fowl, birds and mammals. If you have a pair of binoculars, bring them along to enhance your experience as we should have plenty of opportunities for some good viewing. Meet at the parking lot, bring water and binoculars. Bathroom at trailhead. 1040 Matunuck Schoolhouse Road, South Kingstown. N 41° 22.993' W. 071° 35.133'

Leader: Deirdre O'Connor

Phone: 860 287-7281

Email: deirdreo@snet.net

February 12 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:** marcdohertywesterlylandtrust.org

February 19 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Grills Wildlife Sanctuary, Hopkinton (222 Chase Hill Road)

3 or 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'

Leaders: Sue & Geoff Sewall **Phone:** 401 377-2826 (h **Email:** suemsew@gmail.com

February 26 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Burlingame North from Buckeye Brook Road, Charlestown

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 stabilicers 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.

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