



## 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 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:** 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 5** 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 Town Forest. It will be a moderate woods walk. *Parking is located at Flora Whitely Preserve, across from 190 Potter Hill Rd. Look for the WLT parking sign and chain barrier at the end of the driveway.*

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

**March 12** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Sheetz Family Forest, North Stonington, CT

With a 2.51-mile, figure-eight style loop trail, this preserve features a diverse range of scenery and wildlife. The trailhead is located at the mailbox for 94 Potter Hill Road. If you turn onto Potter Hill Road off of Denison Hill Road, this entrance is located on the right side of the road and has ample parking for approximately 6 cars. If you are traveling down Potter Hill Road, you will make a slight turn and the entrance will be on your left.

**Leader:** Sheri Shamblin                      **Phone:** 860 326-4271                      **Email:** [Sheri.shamblin@gmail.com](mailto:Sheri.shamblin@gmail.com)

**March 19 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Dr. John Champlin Glacier Park, Westerly**

A walking tour of the WLT's Glacier Park preserve featuring wooded trails with gentle hills and some rocky sections. This site's unique geological features are worth the trip. Meet at the trailhead off of Tom Harvey Road just outside the entrance to Winnapaug Cottages. Please park in the designated area outside of the Winnapaug Cottages gate or in the parking lot across the street.

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

**March 26 10:00 AM - 12:30PM Arcadia Management Area South, Richmond**

Approximately 5-mile walk through pine forests and along scenic rivers, including Roaring Brook. Rolling, undulating terrain with some challenging sections through boulder fields. Most of the walk will be on single-track wooded trails. Meet and park in the dirt parking lot on Route 3. (Exit 9 off I-95 North, then left at stop sign on to Route 3 South, and parking is on right just after you go under I-95). Trailhead GPS 41.538269, -71.679550

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

**April 2 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Donald R. Henne Memorial Preserve, North Stonington, CT**

The trail is narrow throughout with slopes, protrusions into the pathway, and occasional wet areas, some navigable with narrow wooden bridges. Portions include off-path walking through open woods to a hillside of trees felled by beavers, and a wildlife observation area overlooking the Wild and Scenic Shunock River, reached via a five-foot-wide boardwalk spanning open water. This boardwalk is rough, uneven, and can feel wobbly, especially during high water. Parking: A small off-street dirt lot at the Babcock Ridge Preserve trailhead (113 Babcock Road, North Stonington, CT) fits 7-8 cars with additional roadside parking available; we will meet at the lot and walk together about 100 feet along Babcock Road to the Henne trailhead. People are encouraged to carpool!

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

**April 09 10:00 AM - 12:00 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.

**Co-Leaders:** Sally Hanson, Ray Chang, Lynne Ranallo  
**Phone:** 401 932-5295                      **Email:** [sallyhanson242@gmail.com](mailto:sallyhanson242@gmail.com)

**April 16 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Canonchet Brook Preserve (meet at Rte 3 trailhead in Hopkinton)**

This moderate 3-5 mile hike on the Hoxsie and Canonchet trails features the remains of a sawmill, a stone bridge and several old foundations. Terrain is rugged with hills, rocks and roots. Park at Canonchet Brook Preserve trailhead on Rte 3. From Westerly, take I-95, Exit 4, turn left on Woodville Alton Rd. Turn left on Rte 3 and travel .7 mi. to the trailhead on the right. 41.48209° N, 71.74732° W (approx. address 769 Main St. (Rte 3)).

**Leaders:** Gerri Miceli & Deb Luz                      **Phone:** 401 788-4042                      **Email:** [ger44@cox.net](mailto:ger44@cox.net)

**April 23**      **10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Champlin Farm Preserve, Westerly**

This walk is at Champlin 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:** 401 348-2855                      **Email:** [d.bprigmore@gmail.com](mailto:d.bprigmore@gmail.com)

**April 30**      10:00 AM - 12:00 Duval Trail, South Kingstown

Come and hike a network of trails winding through lush forests and coastal terrain, maintained by the South Kingstown Land Trust. Trailhead is on Post Rd at 41.4009240, -71.5847344.

**Leader:** Bruno Hancock                      **Phone:** 860 501-0472                      **Email:** [brunohancock58@gmail.com](mailto:brunohancock58@gmail.com)