



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.

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 5 10:00 AM - 12:30PM Beavertail State Park, Jamestown

Easy 3.5 walk, with moderately difficult sections on the rocky shoreline. Gorgeous views of the lighthouse and ocean. Along the way, we'll learn how this preserve figured prominently from World War II through the present. Meet and park in the paved Parking Lot 1 on the west side of Beavertail Road, the first parking lot on your right after entering the park. Well worth the drive!

Trailhead GPS 41.456233, -71.399022

Leader: Jeff Walker

Phone: 401-447-1879

Email: Jeffrey.walker@cox.net

November 12 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Grills Wildlife Sanctuary, Hopkinton (Chase Hill Road)

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'

Leaders: Sue & Geoff Sewall

Phone: 401 377-2826(h)

Email: suemsew@gmail.com

November 19 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Candlewood Hill Wildlife Management Area (formerly Tilcon property), Groton, CT

The terrain is rugged but moderate: up, down, and along rocky ridges. It's one of the largest Pitch Pine forests in CT, and the scenery is dramatic. We will meet at a trailhead off Rte 184, with easy parking across the street at 'the Sandbox.'

Leader: Maggie Jones **Phone:** 860 941-7682 **Email:** margarettljones@gmail.com

November 26 Happy Thanksgiving

Friday, November 27 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Grills Preserve, Bradford - turkey trot

It's the Friday after Thanksgiving and all of the food has been eaten - what is there to do next? How about a walk at Grills Preserve? This walk on WLT's 500-acre preserve is over primarily flat terrain often along the 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

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

December 3 10:00 AM-12:30 PM Green Falls, Voluntown, CT

4.3 miles, moderate to strenuous hike. Meet at the State Line monument just past Camp Yawgoog. Take RI-138 west from Hope Valley and after 3-miles take a left at the Camp Yawgoog sign. After 0.7 miles take a right at the camp gate and follow the gravel road west. At 1.2 miles pull off and park at the sign for the Narragansett Trail.

A wonderful wooded hike with a few steep sections and rock scrambling. Highlights include waterfalls, Green Falls Pond, a narrow rocky gorge, and old settlements.

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

December 10 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Walden Preserve, Salem, CT

It is a 400-acre natural area with meadows, woodlands and wetlands along a section of the Eight-mile River. The entrance is located at 191 Hagen Road.

Leader: Maggie Jones **Phone:** 860 941-7682 **Email:** margarettljones@gmail.com

December 17 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Francis Carter Preserve from Kings Factory Road trailhead, Charlestown

This trail off Kings Factory Road runs by the Pawcatuck River, around a small cemetery and through part of the Charlestown moraine, with lots of pitch pine and very sandy soil. After a short bushwhack it connects to the rest of the preserve at the Grasslands Loop. Directions: From Route 1 in Charlestown take Kings Factory Road. Remember that it takes a sharp right turn where it comes to Shumankanuk Road. Total distance from Route 1 is 5 miles. Parking area is on the right. From Rte 91 in Wood River Junction take Kings Factory Road. Parking is on the left immediately after crossing the Pawcatuck River.

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

December 24 Wishing everyone a happy holiday

December 31 No leader, no hike