

# Airport Trails

Bethany Field, later known as Bethany Airport, was opened in 1923. It was one of the first airports in New England. It was closed in 1965. The original 112-acre property was intended to become an industrial park when purchased by the Town of Bethany in 1967, but instead has become a multipurpose property which currently has a recycling center, two equestrian rings, announcer's stand and a soccer field. It also contains the Town Garage and the old Airport Hanger which is being converted into a recreational facility. An astute hiker will spot some of the old airport markers in the wooded area. The property is still called the Bethany Airport by residents and municipal officials.

Approximately half of the property is open field, but a majority of the property is wooded. Within this wooded area, there is a network of multi-use passive recreational trails, and many side trails. No motorized vehicles are permitted on the trails. The trails are generally level, with some seasonal wet areas.

In 2005, as his Eagle Scout Leadership Project for Bethany Boy Scout Troop 59, Ben Francois mapped and blazed the airport trails with a team of helpers, creating a system of three main trails designated with rectangular blazes. Alternative loop and connecting trails use a triangular blaze.



*Bethany Airport Community Center Project Committee*

## Easy to Moderate Hike

1. The Yellow Trail from northernmost equestrian riding ring to Fairwood Road to the White Trail (with an alternate Yellow Triangle Trail) (approx. 0.28 mi).

## Easy to Moderate Hike

2. The White Trail running from the rear of the announcer's stand to Old Fairwood Road Extension (approx. 0.47 mi) (with two alternate White Triangle Trails).

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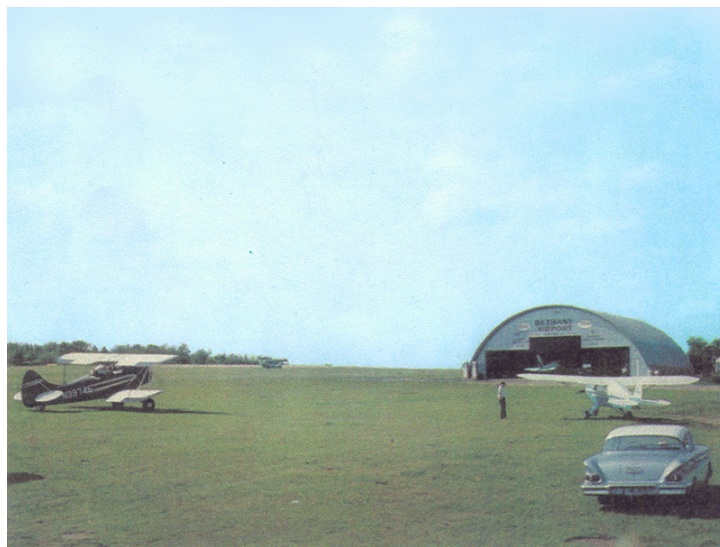
3. The Red Trail from the White Trail to the soccer field (approx. 0.90 mi) with an alternate Red Triangle Trail (approx. 0.24 mi).

## Directions and Parking:

Parking is ample on the Airport property along the main drives through the open area. Access is from two main entrances on Amity Road (Route 63).

## Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

This land is for passive recreation use only. No motorized vehicles are permitted. Dogs are permitted on leash. Please bag and pick up all dog waste. Horseback riding is permitted only on marked trails. Hunting or trapping on Trust Land is prohibited.



*Bethany Airport circa 1958*

**GPS Directions:** 790 Old Toll Rd, Madison, CT 06443

**Total Trails Length:** approx. 2.17 miles

**White Trail:** 0.54 miles

**White Traingle Trail:** 0.04 miles

**Red Trail:** 0.84 miles

**Red Triangle Trail:** 0.34 miles

**Yellow Trail:** 0.25

**Yellow Traingle Trail:** 0.13 miles














## For more information about this walk contact:

Town of Bethany Parks and  
Recreation Department  
(203) 393-2100 ext:127



# Legend

- |   |                       |   |               |
|---|-----------------------|---|---------------|
|  | Parking               |  | Wetlands      |
|  | Trailhead             |  | RWA Property  |
|   | White Trail           |  | Town Property |
|   | White Triangle Trail  |   |               |
|   | Red Trail             |   |               |
|   | Red Triangle Trail    |   |               |
|   | Yellow Trail          |   |               |
|   | Yellow Triangle Trail |   |               |

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