

The Branford Trail: Pine Orchard

The 30-mile Branford Trail is a unique trail that borders a majority of the town's perimeter. The white circle blazed trail passes through the shoreline, wetlands, many town parks, northerly woodlands, and many Branford Land Trust properties. The trail is separated into eight sections that begins and ends at a public road with space for parking. Every home in Branford is within 15-minutes walking time of a trail. The entire Branford trail is best walked in a counter-clockwise directions.

This 2.62 mile section of the Branford Trail features the Pine Orchard area of Branford. This area was permanently settled in the 1800s. Pine Orchard comprises several cottage colonies, some handsome estates, summer hotels, and the eighteen-hole course of the Pine Orchard Golf Club.

The trail passes behind the Pine Orchard Association building on Pine Orchard Road and travels through Young's Pond Park. In the park, there are several small loop trails that take you through the park and around Young's Pond. At Blackstone Avenue, the trail climbs a ridge to the left with good views and then descends to travel north along the base of a cliff. You can avoid this ascent and descent by staying on Blackstone Ave and rejoining the Branford Trail just before the railroad bridge.

The trail crosses the Tilcon freight train line that carries trap rock stone from the quarry in North Branford to the Tilcon dock where barges are loaded with the stone. From the Tilcon line, the trail follows the old trolley line to Stony Creek. An unblazed side path can be taken to Snake Island. The blazed trail loops up through the Vedder Property which takes you passed the Vedder Monument, across Pleasant Point Road, and then down again to the old trolley line.



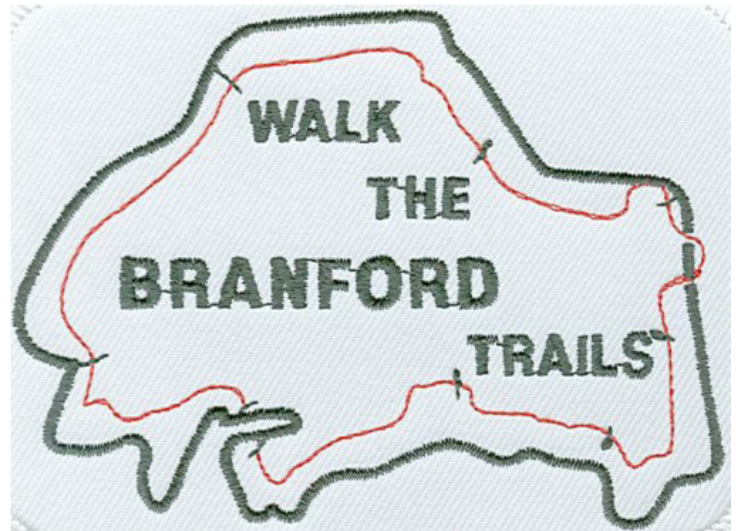
Photo by CT Department of Environmental Protection

Directions and Parking:

Parking for this portion of the Branford Trail can be found along the access road to the Pine Orchard Pet Lodge or at the Pine Orchard Association building. This area is best reached via I-95 to Montowese Street (Route 146) to Pine Orchard Road.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

This trail follows public and private roads. When adjacent to private property please respect resident's privacy. Dogs are permitted on leash. Please bag and pick up all dog waste.



Design for the Logo and Patch by Ralph Fuller

Easy Hike

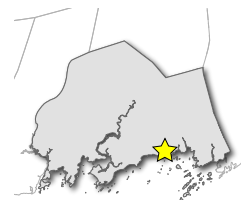
This section of the Branford Trail also includes the Branford Trolley Trail. This trail is a 480 foot long by 4 foot wide footbridge along the path of an abandoned historic trolley track. The bridge connects to a popular existing nature walk. Visitors to the Branford trolley track footbridge can expect to see numerous shorebirds in the tidal estuary, feeding in the marsh or wading in the shallow waters of the tidal creek.

Total trails length is approx. 2.62 miles

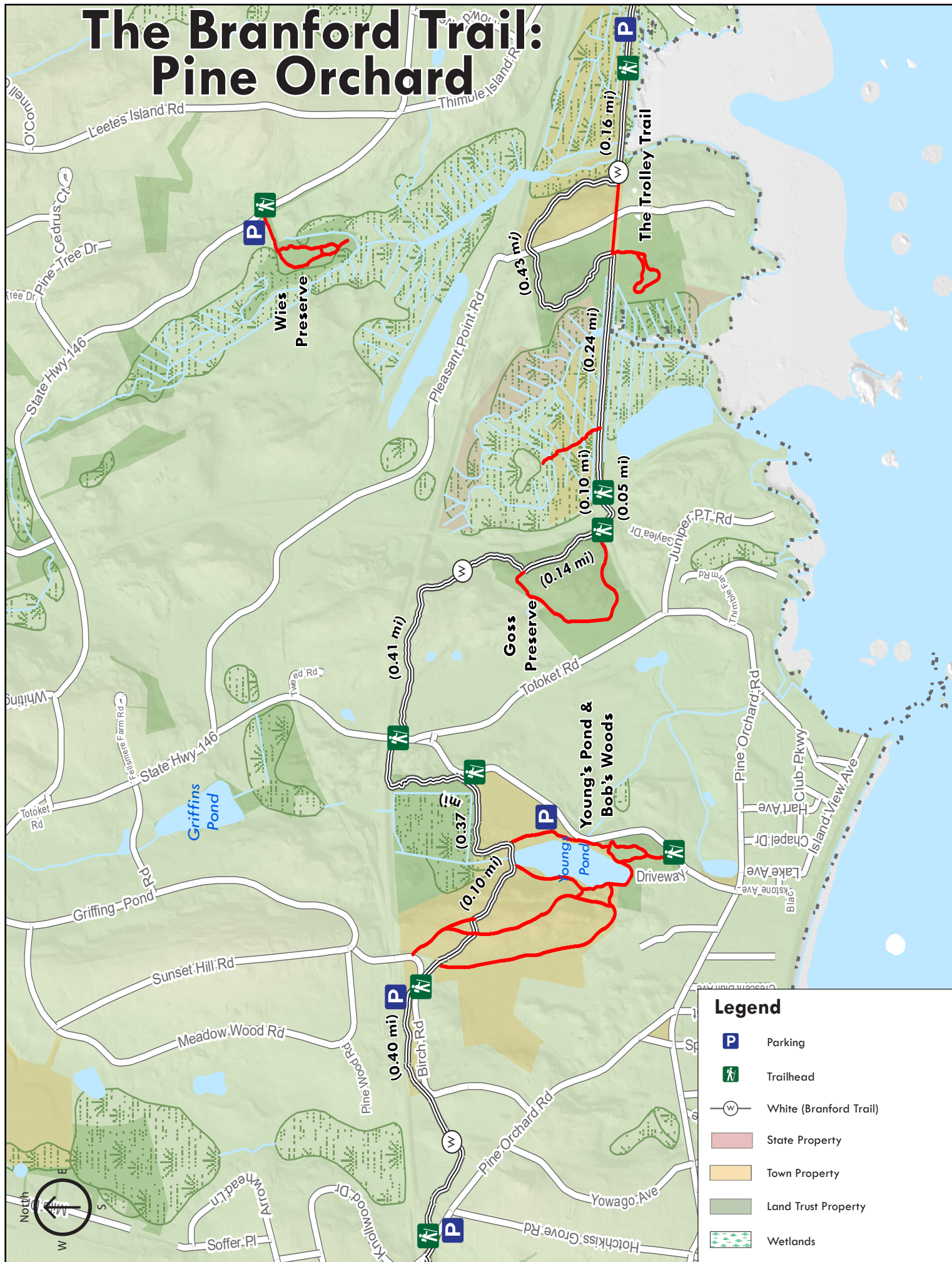


For more information about this walk contact:

Town of Branford
Parks and Open Space Authority
(203) 488-8394 ext:120



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Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- White (Branford Trail)
- State Property
- Town Property
- Land Trust Property
- Wetlands