

Introducing the Canton Land Trust Challenge!

This Challenge is dedicated to the memory of
Frederic Morgan (Ted) Cowles III (1932-2020)
Ted served on the Board of the Canton Land Conservation
Trust from 1994 to 2020.

In addition to many years of service as a board member, Ted
contributed to stewardship activities, with far too many
examples to list individually.

Ted improved our trails and built bridges that make the trails
accessible. His proficiency with the hammer and saw, outdoor
knowledge, and engineering skills were legendary, as was your
volunteer work with many organizations beside the Land
Trust. His contributions will be remembered by all of us who
visit any of the CLCT properties.

While the trails on Canton Land Conservation Trust property are suitable for use
in all four seasons, there's no doubt that many see warm weather as a time to get
back outdoors and onto the trails.

The Canton Land Conservation Trust encourages you to take the Canton Land
Trust Challenge, a series of eight hikes whose total distance is just over 23 miles.
This is not a race; the goal is to simply complete the challenge at whatever pace
you choose to visit some of the lovely trails in the town of Canton.

All these trails are in whole or in part on Canton Land Conservation Trust properties, with one of the legs of the challenge including several trails at the Roaring Brook Nature Center, and another one of the legs starting at the town of Simsbury's Onion Mountain Park.

These hikes have a combined elevation gain of 4,167 feet. To put this in perspective, if you have climbed some of the mountains in New Hampshire, climbing Mt. Washington by one of the most popular routes (Tuckerman's or Jewell trail) results in an altitude gain of about 4,200 feet. As another perspective, there is a race up the stairs in the Empire State Building. That climb has an elevation gain of 1,050 feet, so you would have to repeat that climb almost four times to match the elevation gain of the Canton Land Trust Marathon Challenge. If you were to do Mt. Everest by the South Col route, you would have an elevation gain of 13,756 feet, so this challenge is almost one third of Everest (without the reduced oxygen).

Take these hikes in any order you choose, although those new to hiking might wish to start with the shorter ones and build up to the longer ones.

You can complete the hikes either by following the text-based, turn-by-turn instructions listed further down, or you can use the AllTrails app on your phone. You don't need to download the app, and you do not need a dedicated QR reader, you simply point your phone at the QR code as if you were planning to take a picture, and it will prompt you to click on a link. You can also go to:

<https://www.alltrails.com/lists/canton-land-trust-challenge>

or you can the QR codes for each of the legs of the challenge. Using the AllTrails app gives you driving directions to the trailhead. While on the trail, the app identifies your current location with a blue dot.

Use the form on the next page to document your progress. The Land Trust is still working on ways to recognize members who complete the challenge. This year, the challenge starts whenever this notice is sent out, and ends September 22, 2020, making it a summer challenge.

The Main AllTrails website is located here: <https://www.alltrails.com/>

Free apps are available for both iPhone and Android devices.

Canton Marathon Challenge Completion form

Name _____

Leg	Distance	Elevation gain	Date completed
Leg 1 Goedecke-Humphrey	1.1 miles	115 ft.	
Leg 2 Sweetheart	1.5 miles	453 ft.	
Leg 3 Uplands	1.6 miles	161 ft.	
Leg 4 Swan	2.5 miles	410 ft.	
Leg 5 Conklin	2.4 miles	348 ft.	
Leg 6 Nature Center	3.5 miles	659 ft.	
Leg 7 Sun, Wind, Woodland	4.9 miles	699 ft.	
Leg 8 Ted Wright and Charlotte Craig	6.0 miles	1,322 ft.	
	23.5 miles	4,167 ft.	

Remember to wear proper hiking gear, especially footwear; bring sunscreen, tick and mosquito repellent, bear repellent, plenty of water, snacks, first aid kits, and follow social distancing rules.

Return completed forms by email:

cantonlandtrust@gmail.com

or by mail:

Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.,

P.O. Box 41,

Canton Center, CT 06020

AllTrails QR Codes

If you have any difficulty accessing these QR codes, all maps can be found at <https://www.alltrails.com/lists/canton-land-trust-challenge>

Leg	Distance	Elevation Gain	QR Code
Leg 1 Goedecke-Humphrey	1.1 miles	115 ft.	
Leg 2 Sweetheart	1.5 miles	453 ft.	
Leg 3 Uplands	1.6 miles	161 ft.	
Leg 4 Swan and Ted Cowles	2.5 miles	417 ft.	
Leg 5 Conklin	2.4 miles	348 ft.	

			
Leg 6 Nature Center	3.5 miles	659 ft.	
Leg 7 Sun, Wind, Woodland	4.9 miles	699 ft.	
Leg 8 Ted Wright and Charlotte Craig	6.0 miles	1322 ft.	

Text based, turn-by turn directions

Leg 1 – Goedecke-Humphrey

Start at small parking area across from 23 West Road.

1. Head northwest on Orange-blazed Goedecke trail.
2. Continue uphill, then turn right, (0.4 miles) and follow loop counterclockwise.
3. Return on Blue trail, (0.8 miles) then back to Orange trail and back to trailhead (1.1 miles).

Total Distance: 1.1 miles. Elevation gain: 115 ft.

Leg 2 – Sweetheart Mountain

Start at Sweetheart Mountain parking lot. Go to 82 Dunne Avenue, turn left, and dirt parking lot will be on the left.

1. Start on Yellow trail.
2. After 0.1 miles, Yellow trail turns left. Stay straight (west) to go onto Blue trail.
3. Follow Blue trail up to old road and turn right.
4. At intersection with Red trail, turn right (north) to remain on Blue trail.
5. At 0.3 miles, sharp right to begin counter-clockwise loop on Blue trail. If you miss right turn, just do the loop clockwise.
6. At 0.7 miles, rejoin Blue trail until you return to old road.
7. Turn right (west) onto Red trail.
8. Follow Red trail until it joins Yellow trail (0.9 miles).
9. Turn right to follow Yellow trail.
10. At 1.0 miles make sure NOT to go onto MDC property; stay on marked Yellow trail.
11. At 1.3 miles, brief jog to left (north) to see the machinery for the ski lift.
12. Follow Yellow back to parking lot (1.5 miles).

Total distance: 1.5 miles. Elevation gain: 453 ft.

Leg 3 – Uplands

Start at circle at the end of Uplands, between 9 and 12 Uplands Drive. It looks like a driveway in front of you, heading east, but start on the driveway, and you will quickly see the beginning of the trail.

1. Follow Yellow trail east to intersection 0.1 miles.
2. Turn right (south).
3. Go past shortcut (left turn) at approx. 0.2 mile, then turn left a few yards further.
4. Go east to corner at 0.4 miles.
5. Continue on Yellow, stay straight past shortcut to the left.
6. Stay on Yellow until it comes close to intersecting Blue trail at 0.7 miles.
7. Turn left (west) to stay on Yellow.
8. Turn right at intersection 0.8 miles.
9. Now follow Blue and go counterclockwise around loop.
10. Return to intersection with Yellow, turn right to stay on Blue 1.2 miles.

11. At fork, you can go either side around vernal pool; I went right.
12. Return to Blue trail, turn left (south) 1.3 miles.
13. Rejoin Yellow near Kiosk.
14. Continue south on Yellow and turn right at 1.6 miles.
15. Back to parking circle.

Total distance: 1.6 miles. Elevation gain: 161 ft.

Leg 4 – Swan and Ted Cowles

Go to Swan parking lot just south of 33 Case Street. The legal address for the parking lot is 25 Case, but Google maps does not know where the driveway is; using Google maps will route you a spot on Case closest to the midpoint of the property. Better to search for 33 Case, and turn just south of that property. The parking lot has a prominent Canton-shaped Land Trust sign.

1. Start in parking lot and follow Yellow trail, which will go east to the brook, then turn north to a bridge 0.2 miles. The bridge was constructed by a trail crew under the guidance of Ted Cowles.
2. Cross the bridge, and turn right to stay on Yellow trail.
3. Follow the Yellow trail up to intersection with Blue trail; take the right (south) to start on the Blue trail 0.4 miles.
4. Follow the Blue trail. At 0.5 miles, the Ted Cowles Trail will be a slight right, while the Blue trail turns left.
5. The Ted Cowles Trail will intersect the Yellow trail at 1.8 miles. Turn right onto the Yellow trail.
6. Follow the Yellow trail; just past the intersection with the Blue trail, the Red trail will be a right (north) at 2.1 miles.
7. Turn right to follow the Red trail, which will then follow the brook and return to the bridge at 2.3 miles.
8. Return to the parking lot via the Yellow trail (2.5 miles).

Total distance: 2.5 miles. Elevation gain: 410 ft.

Leg 5 – Conklin

Start at Conklin parking lot 144 Indian Hill Road.

1. Just beyond kiosk, turn right (northwest) onto Ray Smith (Red) trail.
2. Turn right (northwest) onto Tommy Ryan trail. 0.5 miles Marked Green but blazes are not clear.
3. Follow Tommy Ryan to brook. Move 5 yards north to cross on stones 0.6 miles.
4. Continue up to Breezy Hill road and return 0.6 miles.
5. Back at brook, optionally walk 10 yards south to see evidence of breached dam.
6. Return on Tommy Ryan trail to Ray Smith (Red) trail 0.9 miles.
7. At intersection with Yellow trail, turn right (west) 1.0 miles.
8. Follow Yellow trail back to intersection 2.1 miles.
9. Turn right (east) to stay on Yellow trail.
10. Observe former barn of the Canton town poorhouse on right 2.2 miles,
11. Continue through fields back to parking lot 2.4 miles.

Total distance: 2.4 miles. Elevation gain: 348 ft.

Leg 6 – Nature Center

Start at Roaring Brook Nature Center parking lot, 70 Gracey Road

1. Go north around building, then west on Red-blazed trail.
2. At an intersection, turn right (northwest) onto Blue-blazed trail (less than 0.1 miles).
3. Follow Blue-blazed until you reach a field then left to stay on Blue blazed trail, then right (southeast) onto White-blazed trail. (0.2 miles).
4. At intersection with Red trail, turn right (south) (0.5 miles).
5. At intersection, near bridge, take Yellow trail (south) (0.6 miles).
6. Cross Bahre Corner road, (0.7 miles) continue on Yellow trail.
7. Take a right on Gray-blazed trail (0.9 miles).
8. Stay right in first field, then turn right in second field (1.0 miles).
9. Continue around field, then near south border of field turn right (west) (1.1 miles).
10. At next intersection, go around Gray-blazed loop, either direction (1.1 miles).
11. Return along southern border of fields, then watch for right turn onto Green-blazed trail (1.6 miles).
12. Follow the Green-blazed trail until it joins the Yellow (2.0 miles).
13. Turn right onto Yellow. (2.0 miles) There is a fork; take either option, though the right fork has a better view of quarry.
14. Return across Bahre Corner Road (2.4 miles).
15. Just before bridge, turn right to do the Blue-blazed loop (2.4 miles).
16. Cross bridge on Red trail (2.7 miles); stay on Red back to Nature Center (2.9 miles).
17. Go through parking lot (or trail adjacent to lot) to Gracey Road (2.9 miles).
18. Cross Gracey Road, go into picnic area, then right (southeast) to start Orange trail (2.9 miles).
19. Halfway around Orange trail, turn right onto Blue-blazed Brewster trail (3.0 miles).
20. Near top of ridge, bear right to go up to bench, (3.2 miles) then return to Orange Trail (3.4 miles).
21. Take a right to finish the Orange loop and return to Nature Center parking lot (3.5 miles).

Total distance 3.5 Miles Elevation gain: 659 ft.

Leg 7 – Sun, Wind, and Woodland trails

Start at the Sun, Wind and Woodland parking lot at 200 Breezy Hill Road

1. West on Tom Perry trail, until it meets Breezy Hill Farms trail (0.2 miles).
2. Continue west on Breezy Hill Farms trail and stay on it back to Breezy Hill Road (1.5 miles).
3. Cross Breezy Hill road and head east on Sweeton trail for about .25 mile (1.8 miles).
4. Take new Feibel trail. At fork, (2.0 miles) take the right option, continue until it hits

Barbour Woods (2.3 miles) (If you miss the right turn, it only adds 0.1 miles).

5. When Barbour Woods trail spur branches to the right, (2.6 miles) take it down to Barbourtown Road and back (3.7 miles).

6. Continue west on the remainder of Barbour Woods back to Breezy Hill Road (4.1 miles).

7. Go north on Breezy Hill road less than 1/10 mile to Sun, Wind and Woodland trail (SWW) (4.2 miles).

8. Follow SWW back to parking lot (4.9 miles).

Total distance: 4.9 miles. Elevation gain: 699 ft.

Leg 8 – Ted Wright and Charlotte Craig trails

Start at the Sun, Wind and Woodland parking lot at 200 Breezy Hill Road

1. North through field to SWW trail, take trail to Breezy Hill road (0.75 mi).

2. Follow road to parking lot for Capen Cabin/start of Ted Wright trail (1.2 mi).

3. Take Ted Wright trail to Doyle Road (2.4 miles) and Smith Tree Farm (2.6 miles).

4. Take Charlotte Craig trail loop, back to Doyle Road (3.5 miles).

5. Return south on Ted Wright (4.9 miles).

6. Return 0.45 mile on Breezy Hill Road to SWW trail (5.3 miles).

7. SWW trail back to SWW parking lot (6.0 miles).

Total distance: 6.0 miles. Elevation gain: 1,322 ft.