

Canton Land Trust Challenge (2022)

The Canton Land Conservation Trust encourages you to take the Canton Land Trust Challenge, a series of nine 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.

This year's challenge is the exact same route as in 2021.

All the trails are in whole or in part on Canton Land Conservation Trust properties, with one of the legs of the challenge at the Roaring Brook Nature Center.

These hikes have a combined elevation gain of over 4,000 feet. To put this in perspective, 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 scan the QR codes for each of the legs of the challenge.

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 will publish the names of those who complete the in an upcoming newsletter.

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

Free apps are available for both iPhone and Android devices.

Canton Land Trust Challenge Completion form			
Name _____			
Leg	Distance	Elevation gain	Date completed
Leg 1 Goedecke-Humphrey	1.1 miles	115 ft.	
Leg 2 Sweetheart	2.1 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	4.0 miles	≈600 ft.	
Leg 8 Swibold trail	0.6 miles	56 ft.	
Leg 9 Ted Wright and Charlotte Craig	6.0 miles	1,322 ft.	
	23.8 miles	≈4,000 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	2.1 miles	453 ft.	
Leg 3 Uplands	1.6 miles	161 ft.	
Leg 4 Swan and Ted Cowles	2.5 miles	417 ft.	

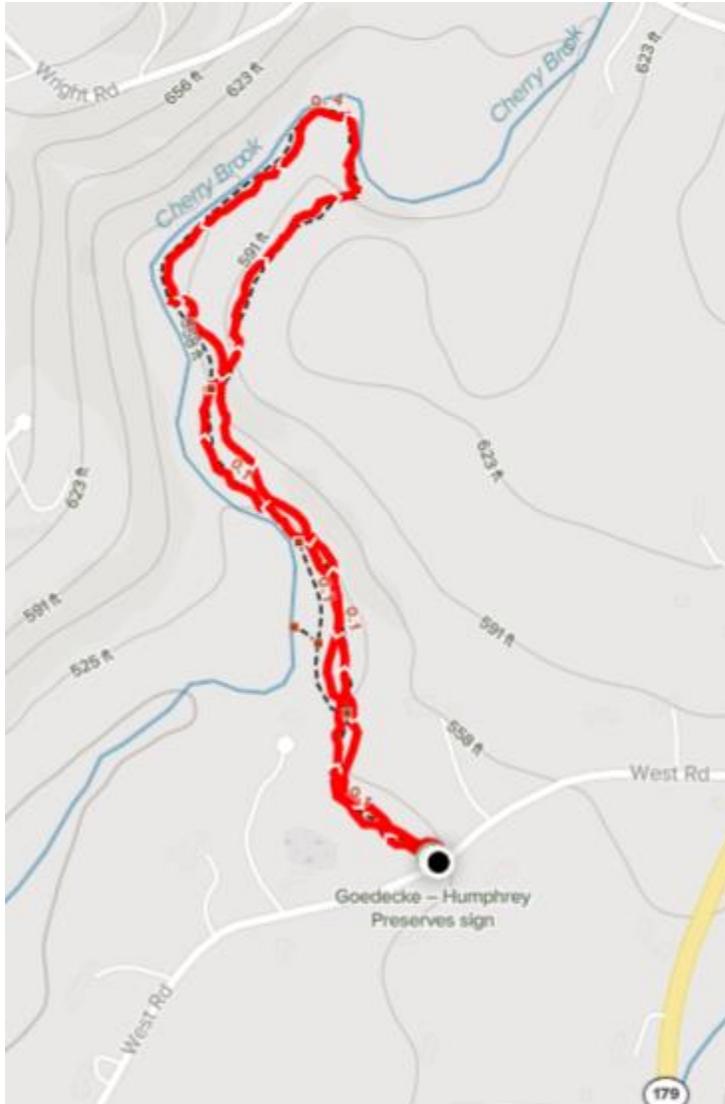
Leg 5 Conklin	2.4 miles	348 ft.	
Leg 6 Nature Center	3.5 miles	659 ft.	
Leg 7 Sun, Wind, Woodland	4.0 miles	≈600 ft.	
Leg 8 Swibold trail	0.6 miles	56 ft.	
Leg 9 Ted Wright and Charlotte Craig	6.0 miles	1322 ft.	

Maps and text based, turn-by turn directions

Caution: some distances may be approximate due to GIS glitches

Leg 1 – Goedecke-Humphrey

Start at small parking area across from 23 West Road. In Google maps, navigate to “Goedecke-Humphrey Trailhead”

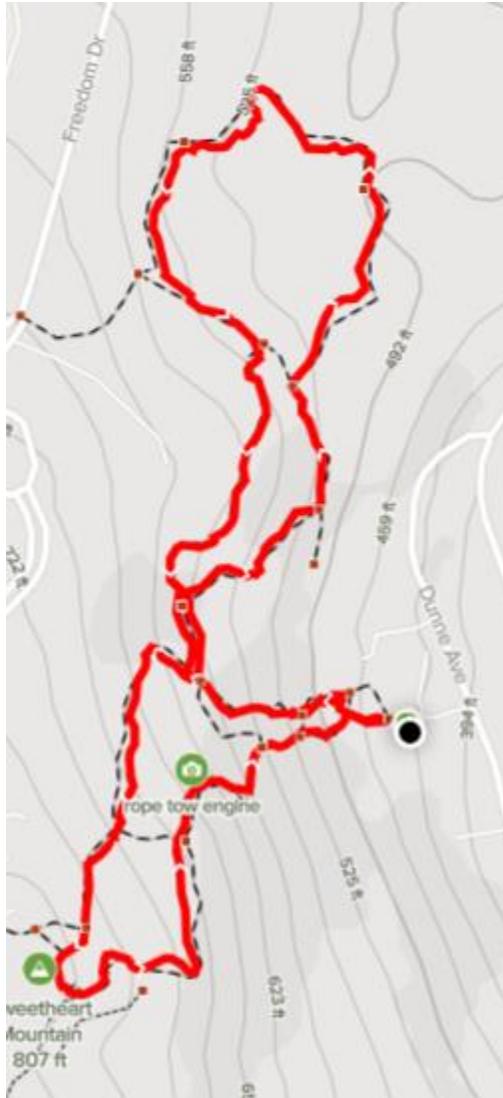


1. Head northwest on Orange-blazed Goedecke trail.
2. Continue uphill, then turn right, (0.4 miles) and follow loop counterclockwise.
3. Return on Blue trail, (0.8 miles) then back to Orange trail and back to trailhead (1.1 miles).

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

Leg 2 – Sweetheart Mountain

Start at Sweetheart Mountain parking lot. In Google maps, navigate to “Sweetheart Mountain Trailhead“. Alternatively, go to 82 Dunne Avenue, turn left, and the parking lot will be on the left. (Caution, distances are approximate because the maps have not yet been updated)



As a reminder, this route is different than the 2020 route

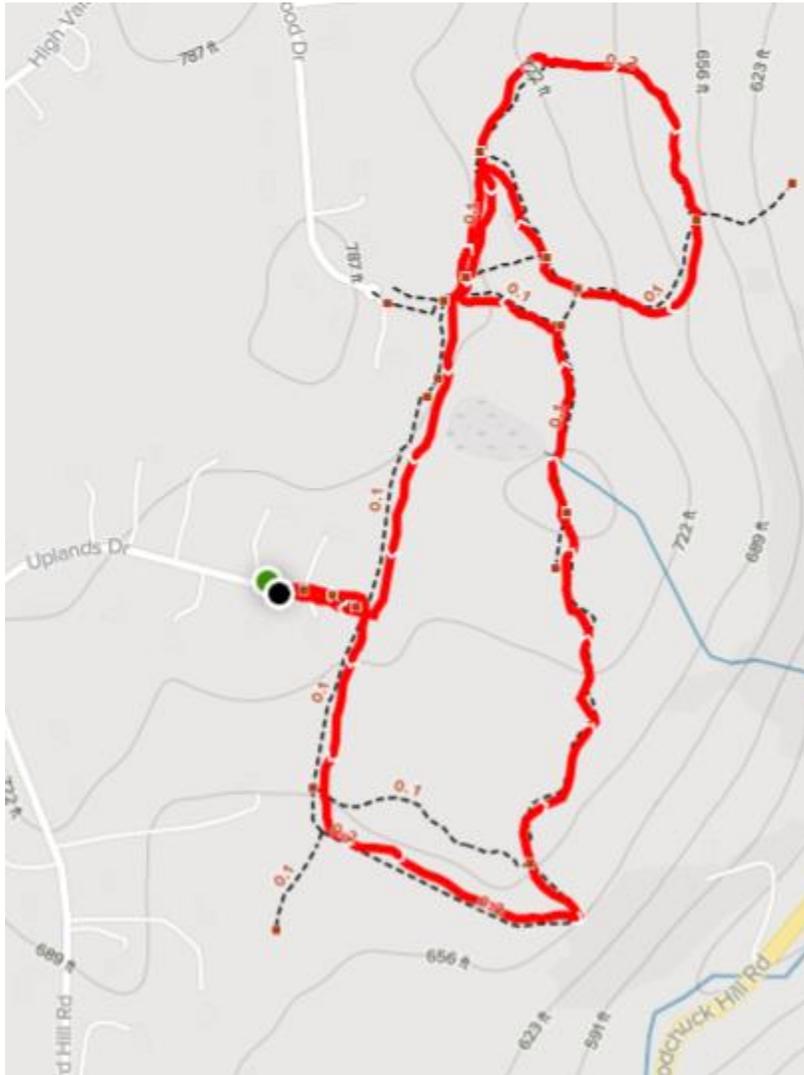
1. Start on Yellow trail.
2. After less than 0.1 miles, Yellow trail bears left. Turn Right to go onto Blue trail.
3. Follow Blue trail up to old road and turn right at 0.2 miles
4. At intersection with Red trail, turn right (north) to remain on Blue trail and begin counter-clockwise loop on Blue trail
5. At 0.5 miles, turn right onto the new Blue with white dot trail.
6. At 0.9 miles do NOT go right which will take you to Sweetheart Mountain Road and the alternate trailhead, turn left to continue on the blue with white dot trail.
7. At 1.0 miles, turn sharp right to go onto Blue trail

8. At 1.2 miles, rejoin old road.
9. At 1.3 miles, turn right (west) onto Red trail.
10. Follow Red trail until it joins Yellow trail (1.4 miles).
11. Turn right (south) to follow Yellow trail.
12. At 1.6 miles make sure NOT to go onto MDC property; stay on marked Yellow trail.
13. At 1.8 miles, brief jog to left (north) to see the machinery for the ski lift.
14. Follow Yellow back to parking lot (2.1 miles).

Total distance: 2.1 miles. Elevation gain: ≈500 ft.

Leg 3 – Uplands

Start at circle at the end of Uplands, between 9 and 12 Uplands Drive. In Google maps, navigate to “Uplands Preserve trailhead south” or V4C9+HM, Canton, CT 06019. 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.



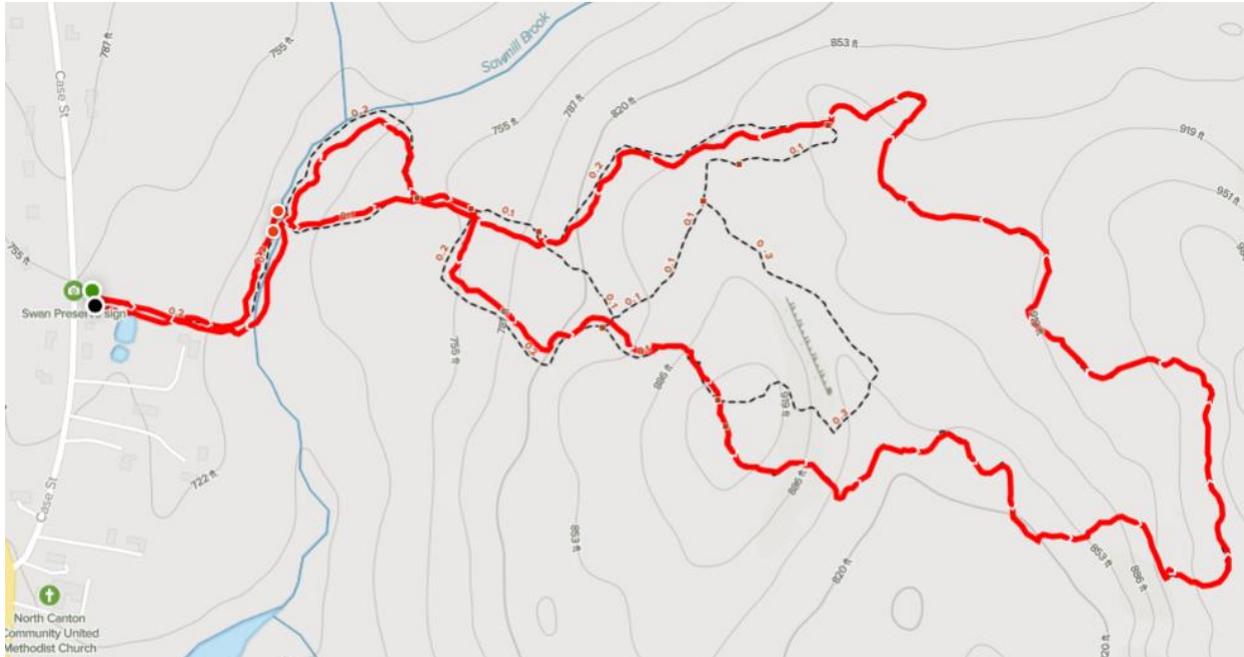
1. Follow Yellow trail east to intersection 0.1 miles.
2. Turn right (south).
3. Go past shortcut (left turn) at approx. 0.2 mile, then turn left a few yards further.
4. Go east to corner at 0.4 miles.
5. Continue on Yellow, stay straight past shortcut to the left.
6. Stay on Yellow until it comes close 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. In Google maps, navigate to "Swan Preserve trailhead" or W435+2H Canton, Connecticut. The parking lot has a prominent Canton-shaped Land Trust sign.

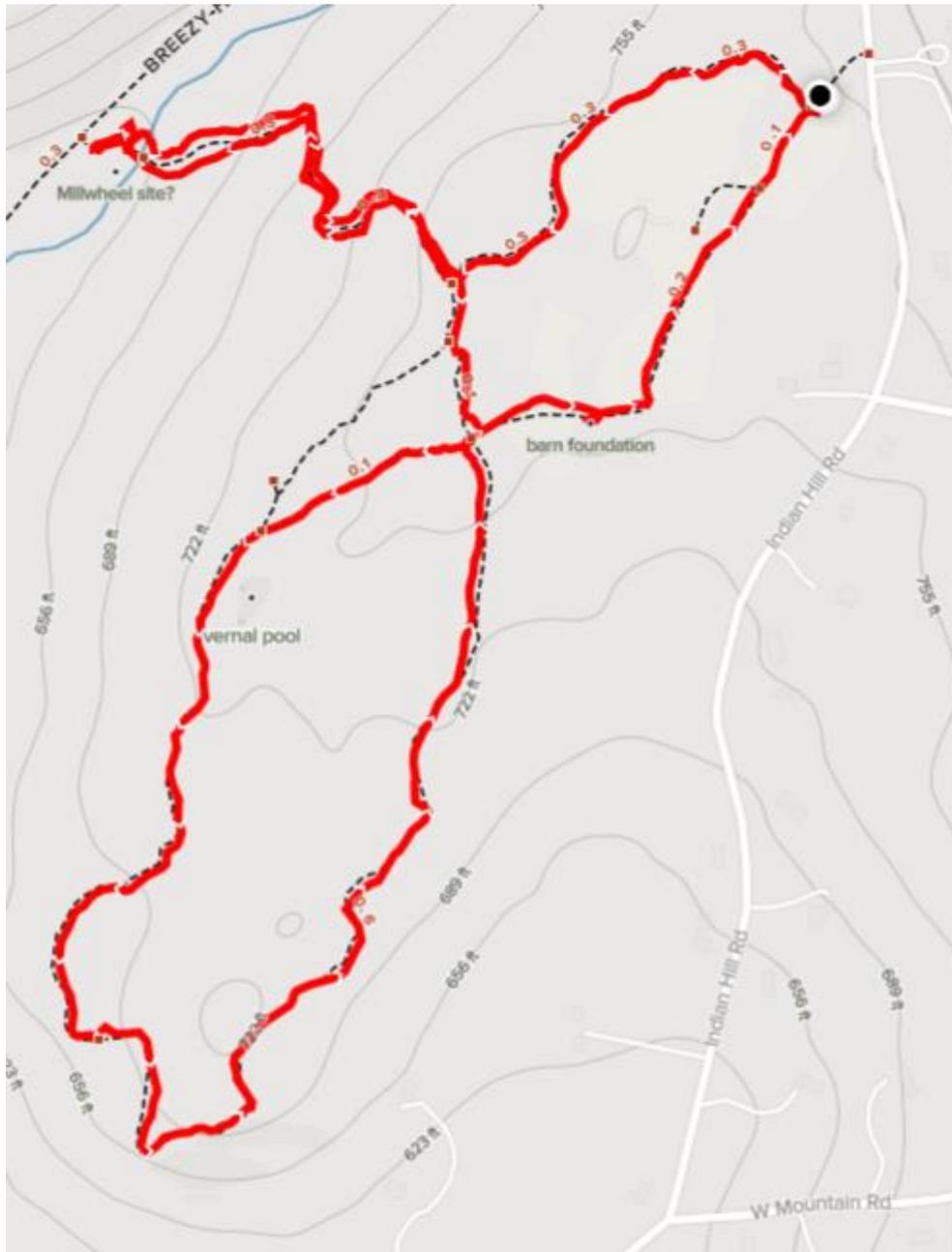


1. Start in parking lot and follow Yellow trail, which will go east to the brook, then turn north to a bridge 0.2 miles. The bridge was constructed by a trail crew under the guidance of Ted Cowles.
2. Cross the bridge, and turn right to stay on Yellow trail.
3. Follow the Yellow trail up to intersection 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.



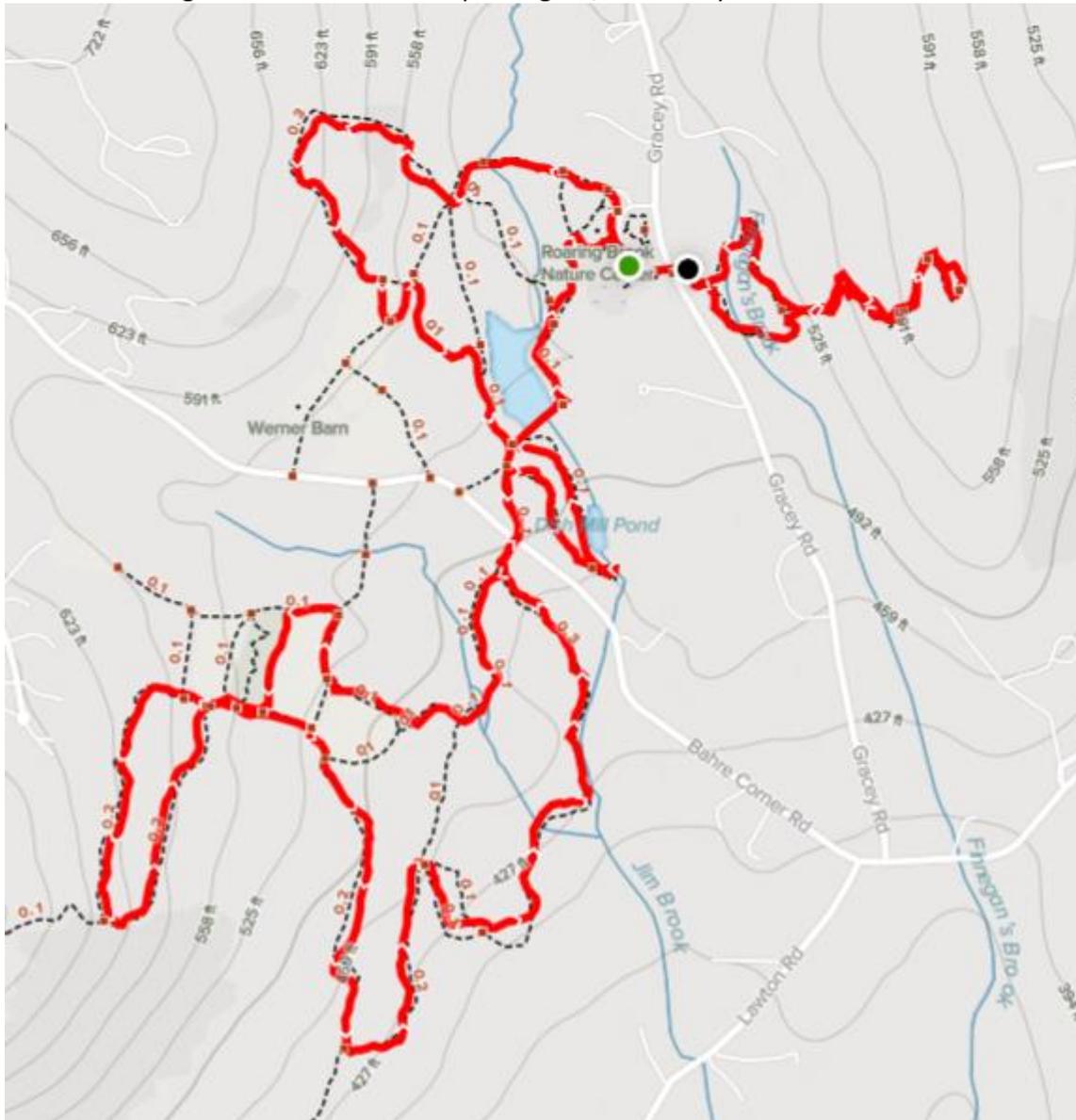
1. Just beyond kiosk, turn right (northwest) onto Ray Smith (Red) trail.
2. Turn right (northwest) onto Tommy Ryan trail. 0.5 miles Marked Green but blazes are not clear.
3. Follow Tommy Ryan to brook. Move 5 yards north to cross on stones 0.6 miles.
4. Continue up to Breezy Hill road and return 0.6 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



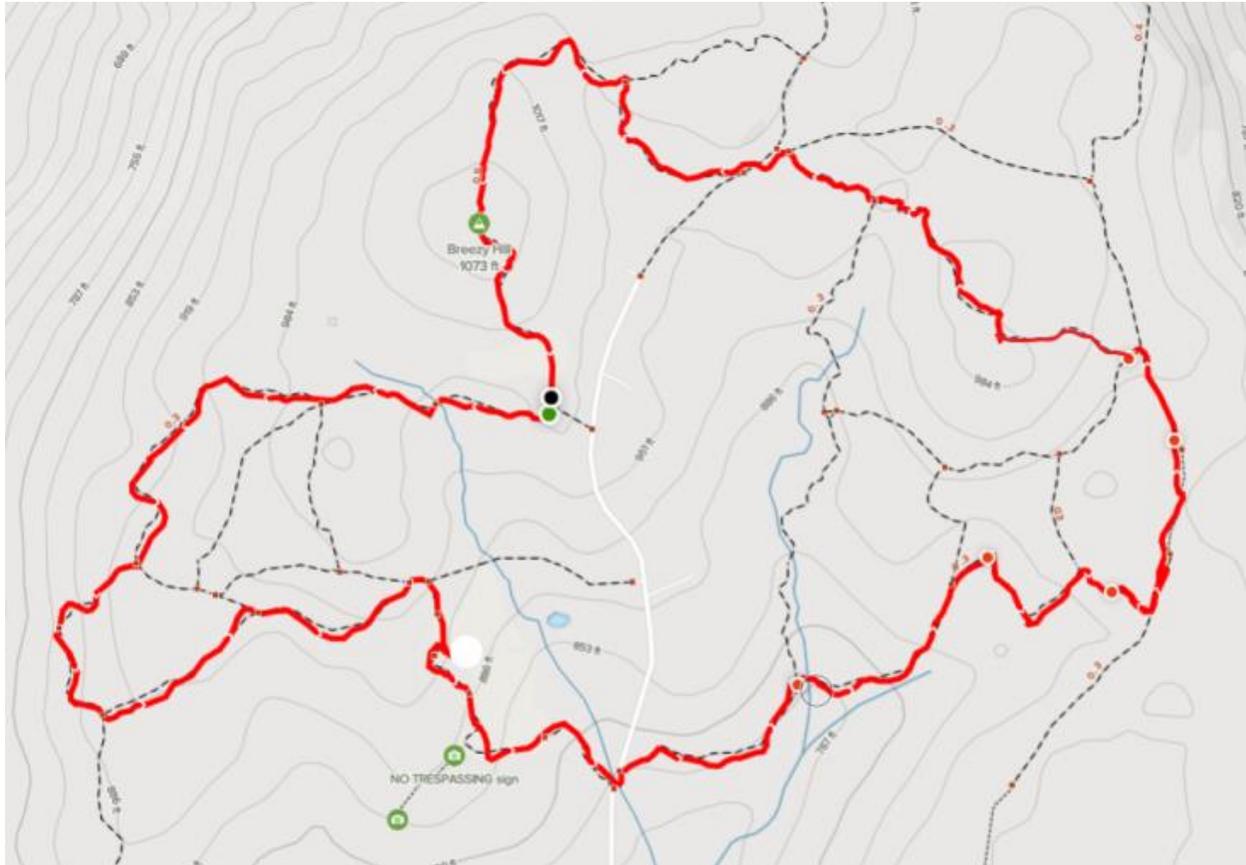
1. Go north around building, then west on Red-blazed trail.
2. At an intersection, turn right (northwest) onto Blue-blazed trail (less than 0.1 miles).
3. Follow Blue-blazed until you reach a field then left to stay on Blue blazed trail, then right (southeast) onto White-blazed trail. (0.2 miles).
4. 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. In Google maps, navigate to "Sun, wind, and Woodland parking" or V3C6+RQ Canton, Connecticut



As a reminder, this route is different than the 2020 route

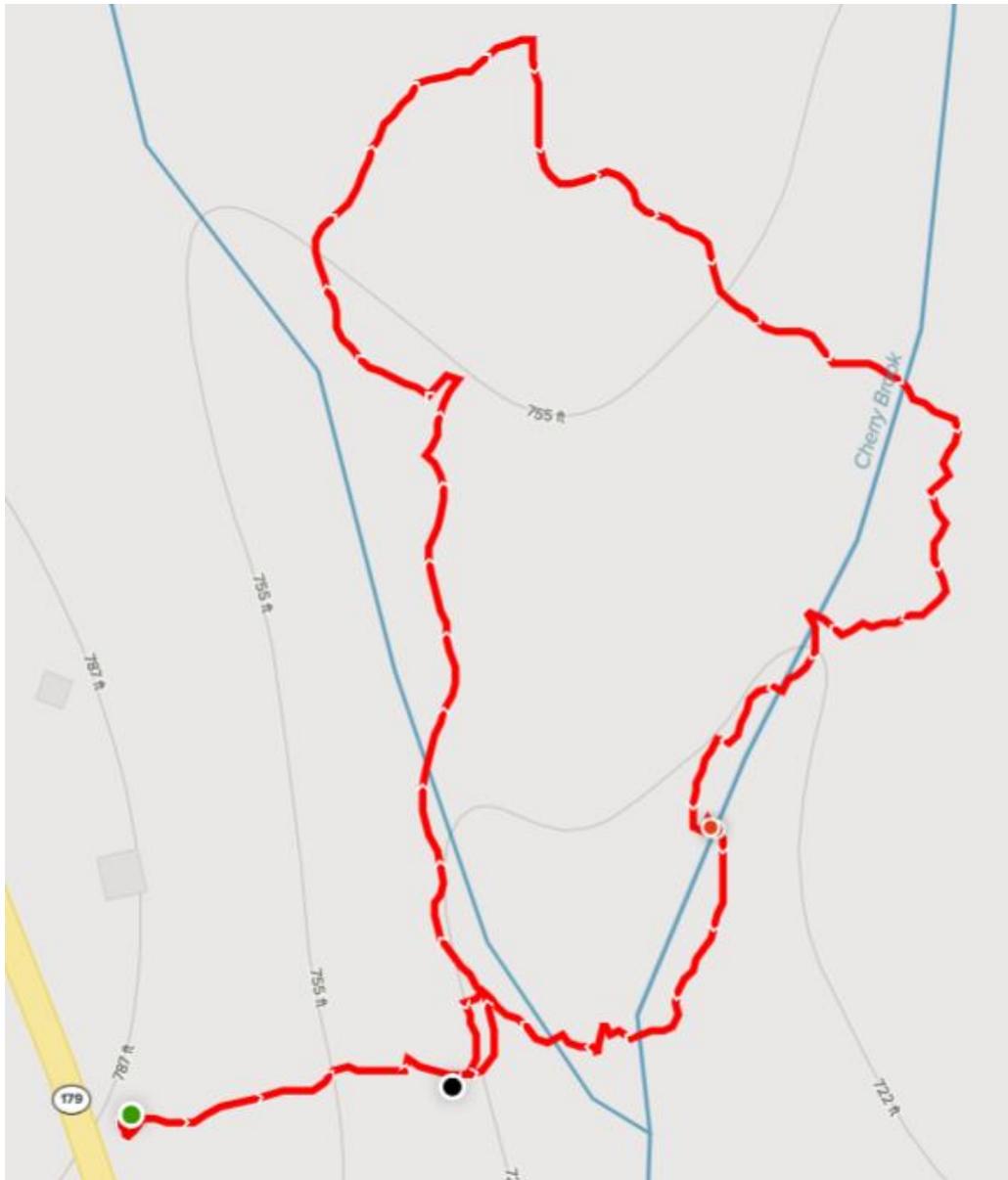
1. West on Tom Perry trail, until it meets Breezy Hill Farms trail (0.6 miles).
2. Continue on Breezy Hill Farms trail and stay on it back to Breezy Hill Road (1.7 miles). (Make sure at approximately 1.2 miles to turn right, rather than going straight. Follow yellow blazes)
3. Cross Breezy Hill road and head east on Sweeton trail for about .25 mile (1.9 miles).
4. Take new Fred Feibel trail. At fork, (2.1 miles) take the right option, continue until 2.3 miles, where you turn right to take Taylor Road Extension. This trail is blazed as of 19 June 2021 with orange blazes .
5. When you reach Taylor Road turn north (left). (2.4 miles)
6. When you reach the intersection with Barbour Woods trail (blue blazed) turn left and continue 100 yards to the new Barbour Woods bypass, which is blue-blazed with yellow arrows.(2.8 miles)
7. The Barbour Woods bypass will join Sweeton trail, with Yellow blazes. Turn right. (3.2 miles)
8. Continue west to Breezy Hill Road (3.2 miles).

9. Go Southwest on Breezy Hill road a few yards to the Taylor-Moses trail. Turn right onto trail (3.2 miles).
10. Follow Taylor-Moses trail until it joins the Sun, Wind and Woodland (SWW) trail (3.4 miles).
11. Turn left and follow (SWW) back to parking lot (4.1 miles)

Total distance: 4.0 miles. Elevation gain: ≈600 ft.

Leg 8 – Swibold trail

Start at the parking lot at the trailhead. In Google maps navigate to “Swibold Trailhead CLCT” or W38X+54 Canton, Connecticut. (The address is 727 Cherry Brook Rd., although entering that into an online map is likely to bring you past the parking area.)

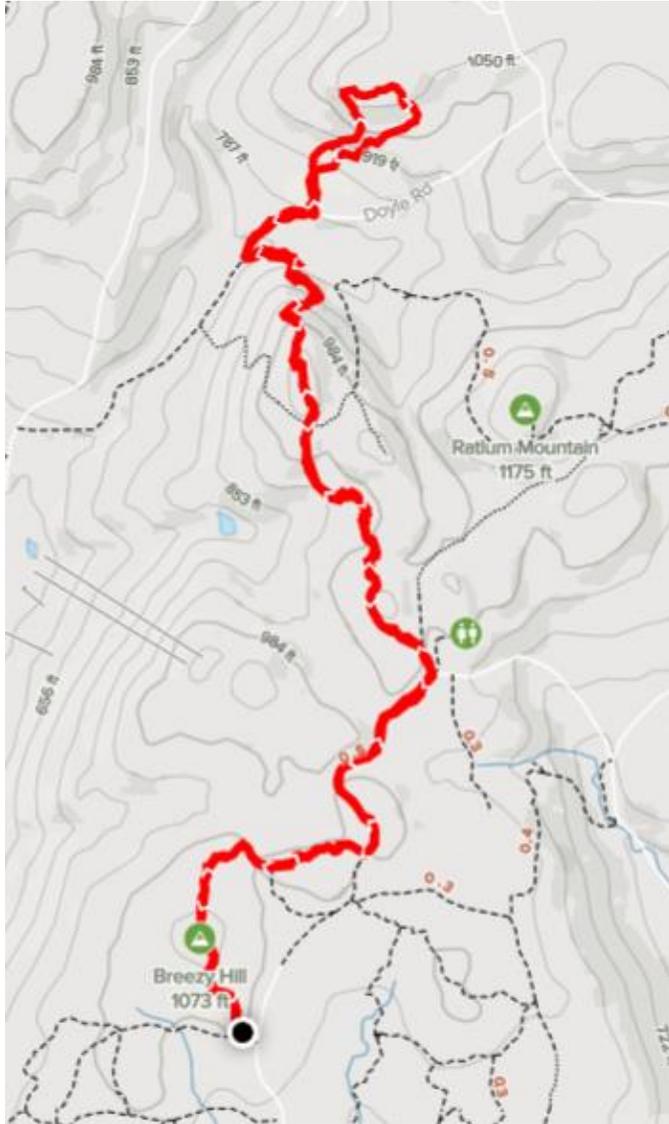


As a reminder, this route is new and was not part of than the 2020 challenge

1. Head east for just over 1/10 mile, then turn north onto old logging road (0.1 miles)
2. Continue north to cross a bridge over a small tributary to cherry Brook, then continue counterclockwise (0.2 miles)
3. At approximately 4/10 of a mile, you will be in sight of Cherry Brook; follow the brook to the confluence of Cherry Brook in the small tributary (0.6 miles)
4. return to the bridge and then return back to the parking area (0.64 miles)

Leg 9 – Ted Wright and Charlotte Craig trails

Start at the Sun, Wind and Woodland parking lot at 200 Breezy Hill Road. In Google maps, navigate to "Sun, wind, and Woodland parking" or V3C6+RQ Canton, Connecticut



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.