

Canton Land Trust Challenge 2023

The Canton Land Conservation Trust encourages you to take the Canton Land Trust Challenge, a series of ten hikes whose total distance is just under 26 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 similar to the 2022 route, with two differences:

1. The Uplands route has been modestly changed. A portion of yellow trail has been abandoned, so the revised route takes a different path along the southern border the property, and the revised route now incorporates the relatively new white trail at the northern end of the property.
2. CLCT recently added trails to our Pratt preserve property — this year's challenge includes a loop along two of these new trails.

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 4,300 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 more than 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.