

## ACCESS/PARKING:

- Ned's Mountain Road opposite Bogus Road. [GPS Address: 1 Bogus Road]
- Ned's Mountain Road. [GPS Address: 311 Ned's Mountain Road]
- South end of Bear Mountain Road. [GPS Address: 38 Bear Mountain Road]
- South end of Pine Mountain Road. [GPS Address: 149 Pine Mountain Rd]
- East end of North Shore Drive. [GPS Address: 29 North Shore Drive]

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy to difficult, depending upon loop selected. Hiking times vary significantly.

**FEATURES:** Hemlock Hills derives its name from the vast hemlock forest that covers the northern part of the refuge. Mountain laurel, striped maple, witch hazel, and pignut hickory are just some of the plants in this diverse open space. In Spring and Summer, the area is alive with wildflowers, including an unusual profusion of marsh marigolds in swampy areas.

Marble deposits underlying the red maple swamp just north of Lake Windwing and the ravine directly west of Pine Mountain Road support the growth of different plants than in other parts of the open space. Striated rock formations and large perched rocks give evidence of extensive glacial action. The Pine Mountain Road entrance leads down to streams having multiple crossings.

A loop trail ascends steeply to the top of the northern peak of Bear Mountain and runs along a ridge line for 700 feet. There is an outlook along the ridge providing views of the eastern portion of Pine Mountain. The outlook and peak are excellent vantage points to view sunrises.

The Bear Mountain parcel has many native trees including white oak, chestnut oak, chinkapin oak, American beech, black birch, red cedar, and hickory while several species of moss and lichen thrive on the rock outcroppings. There is also a wide variety of native shrubs including blueberry and mountain laurel on the property.

**CAMPING:** Primitive camping. Permit required from the Ridgefield Fire Department for campfires and from the Parks and Recreation Department for overnight camping.

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING:** The Orange trail from Ned's Mountain Road to Lake Windwing may be used for this activity as can a ski trail adjacent to the Red trail via the South Shore Drive entrance of Lake Windwing through the fields.

## HEMLOCK HILLS

OS 9

**HISTORY:** The Hemlock Hills property was originally acquired by Otto Lippolt for a development and then sold to the Town. The unpaved roads are now part of an extensive network of trails with loops of varying lengths. A section of Hemlock Hills property was given to the Town as a gift from Dr. Daniel Liebowitz.

The Bear Mountain section of Hemlock Hills consists of a 14-acre parcel acquired from the Lake family in 2020 and an adjacent 3-acre Town-owned parcel, thus establishing a continuous 17-acre open space parcel, which is now part of Hemlock Hills.



## LAKE WINDWING

OS 18, P3

102 acres

**ACCESS/PARKING:**

- South Shore Drive. [GPS Address: 12 South Shore Drive]
- East end of North Shore Drive. [GPS Address: 29 North Shore Drive]

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy. 30 minutes.

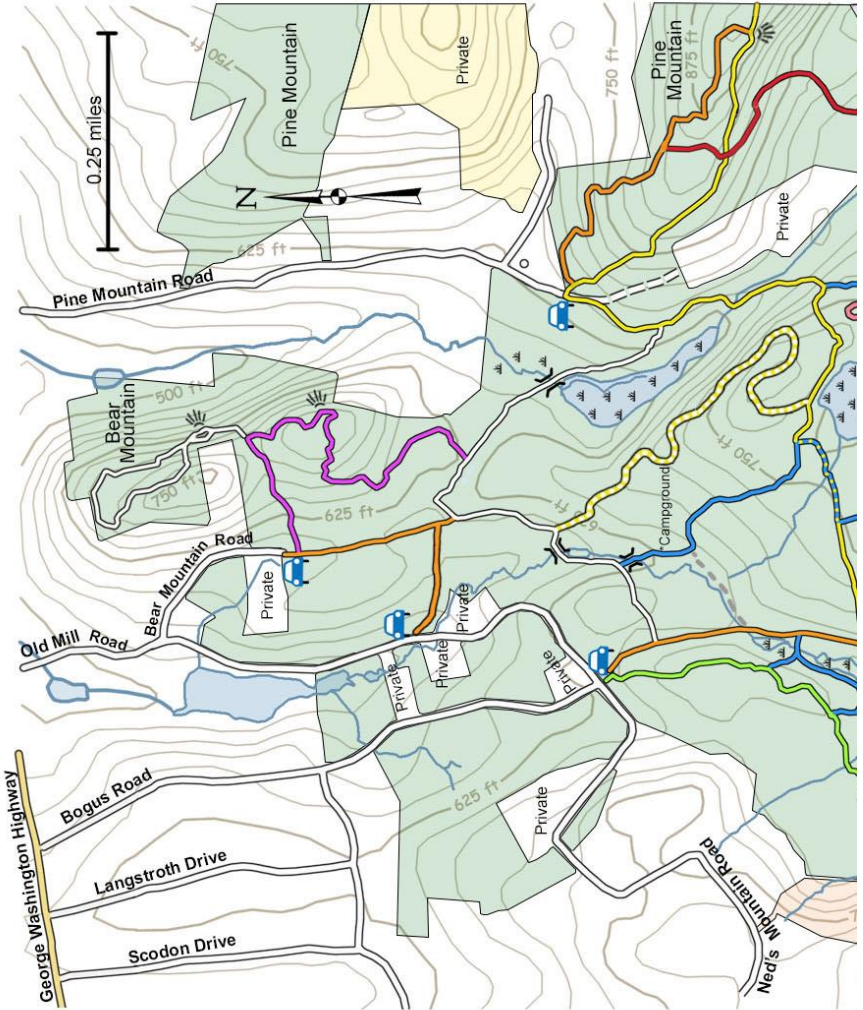
**FEATURES:** This 102-acre open space has baseball fields, a flat meadow, trails, and includes a 15-acre lake on a tributary of the Saugatuck River. It includes properties owned by the Conservation Commission and Parks and Recreation Department.

**BOATING:** Non-motorized boats permitted on Lake Windwing.

**FISHING:** Permitted under the regulations of the State of Connecticut Board of Fisheries and Game.

# HEMLOCK HILLS LAKE WINDWING

OS 9  
OS 18



# HEMLOCK HILLS LAKE WINDWING

OS 9  
OS 18

