

RIDGEFIELD RAIL TRAIL



ACCESS/PARKING:

- Parking at the end of Halpin Lane behind the Ridgefield Guild of Artists barn; foot access from the end of Prospect Street Extension. [GPS Address: 37 Halpin Lane]
- Florida Road. [GPS Address: 175 Florida Road]
- Pedestrian crossings at Ivy Hill and Cooper Hill Roads.
- Restricted to pedestrian use.

DIFFICULTY: Easy. 50 minutes.

FEATURES: The 2.3-mile-long trail traverses several wetlands areas, crosses and re-crosses Cooper Pond Brook, and joins three open-space trail systems. White and blue striped markers indicate the interconnected trails of the Norwalk River system.

At the Halpin Lane parking area there is a short, wooded trail between the parking area and the Rail Trail. On the north side of the trail at approximately 1.8 miles there is access to the trails of the 63-acre Florida Refuge.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: Permitted, but skis should be removed at road crossings.

HISTORY: The trail, which opened on December 11, 2000, follows a portion of the abandoned railway that originally ran from Branchville to the center of Ridgefield. It was built and presented to the town by Eversource (formerly Connecticut Light & Power), current owner of the right-of-way, as part of a Department of Energy and Environment (DEEP) mandated cleanup of arsenic that had been used by the railroad to control weeds.

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