

ACCESS/PARKING:

- Bennett's Farm Road, 0.7 miles from Route 7, at parking lot on north side of road. There are approximately 12 parking spaces. [GPS Address: 600 Bennett's Farm Road]
- Pine Mountain and Hemlock Hills open-space trails.

DIFFICULTY: Easy to difficult, the trail system offers 5 miles of marked pathways depending on route selected. See below.

FEATURES: The 70-acre Bennett's Pond is part of the headwaters of the Saugatuck River, drinking water for much of Fairfield County. It supports an active colony of beavers. Trails include:



The Saugatuck River, drinking water for much of Fairfield County. It supports an active colony of beavers. Trails include:

- The Green trail (easy) is a loop that offers access to a former inn site with a beautiful easterly overlook, a 7-acre meadow, and Bennett's Pond.
- The White trail (easy) leads from the Green trail to the north end of the property, crossing a bridge over the

Saugatuck River and continuing north along the pond to a tussock-sedge marsh.

- The Red trail (difficult) ascends steeply to the Pine Mountain trail system, crossing on a footbridge from the White trail. Toward the top of the ridge it intersects with the Ives Trail and then meets the Yellow Pine Mountain trail.
- The Blue trail (moderate) climbs a ridge to the west of the White trail. It passes by a notable glacial erratic called Haystack Rock and ends at the Red Hemlock Hills-Pine Mountain trail.
- The Purple trail (easy) is a short cutoff for the Green trail. It crosses through forest planted when the property was run as a nursery.

HISTORY: Bennett's Pond was acquired by the Town via eminent domain in 2001, after a three-year acquisition campaign spearheaded by the Ridgefield Open Space Association. In 2002, the property was conveyed to the State of Connecticut to be held as passive open space in perpetuity.

