



Hatchery Brook Conservation Area Trail Guide



The nearly 150-acre Hatchery Brook Conservation Area (HBCA) lies in the heart of Berlin. Featuring a winding watercourse, swamps and vernal pools, several ponds, traprock outcroppings, wildflowers, groves of stately trees, lichen-covered stone walls, historic foundations and several pleasant viewing areas, HBCA tells a tale of Berlin once upon a time. Trails link lands that were once working farms and orchards, along with forested areas including the 1960s era Girl Scout camp Meribrite, its lands now open for all to enjoy, its pavilions and lean-tos and hand pumps dotting the forest. HBCA trails connect second-growth forests with a diversity of species that were first cleared in the colonial era for heating, then were further decimated during the industrial revolution for charcoal (did you know that the last virgin forest in Connecticut was cut over a century ago?) HBCA tells a tale of resilience and the dynamic flow of nature.

With much of the acreage right over an aquifer, hiking HBCA speaks also to the geology of water, held deep in bedrock but bubbling to the surface in depressions and bogs and vernal pools, as well as the stream that gives the area its name. HBCA hosts Berlin's first community gardens, organic of course, adjacent to a



by Pat Bigelow

wildflower strewn grassy field that once sourced foundation materials for the Meriden Mall. Disturbance shapes the Connecticut landscape.

So, think of HBCA as a beautiful example of the resiliency of the healed landscape. With its two large meadows left unmown from April to September except at the edges to support bird habitat and ground-nesting, along with diverse ponds, bogs and streams hosting water fowl and amphibians galore, HBCA offers unique wildlife viewing opportunities – there are even nest boxes supporting scientific research on species adaptation to change. Box turtles like this one Dr. Ken Sokolowski photographed on an HBCA Trail Day hike require such specialized habitat that they may live their entire life within a 750 diameter circle, foraging in the daylight and scooping a place to sleep each night, hibernating two feet down in loose soil each cold Connecticut winter. Imagine how many other creatures are helped by HBCA.

Four loop trails — **Red, Yellow, Blue and Orange** – offer different hiking levels (easy to moderate difficulty) for the property, with several short connecting trails blazed in White and one Blue/Red trail that allows a point-to-point hike. There are three access points into the property:

- the primary one to the south has a large parking lot of Orchard Road about 1/4 mile east of the Chamberlain Highway;



- hikers can access the property from a marked entrance on Kensington Road leading to the Orange Loop Trail, which is less than 1/4 mile from the Metacomet Trail where it exits the Blue Hills Conservation Area by the intersection of Orchard Road and Kensington Road; and,
- those wanting to access the northern parts of the property, especially the Blue Loop Trail, can enter from the south end of Cross Creek Drive, a cul-de-sac where several cars can park as long as they respect adjacent driveways.

With a pending acquisition of additional lands, HBCA should soon be linked to Bicentennial Park to the north, expanding the hiking opportunities, and will have a direct link to the Connecticut Blue Trails across the Chamberlain



Highway into Timberlin Park going on to Short Mountain and the Metacomet Trail which is a part of the New England National Scenic Trail (NET). Watch for small kiosks like this being attached to trees at critical intersections that will eventually hold updated maps. Intersections numbered from 1 to 16 are in the process of being marked, assisting navigation for hikers.

The Red Loop Trail (1.0 miles long)

Direction of Travel: Traveling counter-clockwise, this loop heads north then



Skunk Cabbage & unfurling ferns

climbs through woods to the west and then south back to the trailhead. The Red Loop Trail is best accessed from the parking lot and community garden of Orchard Rd. (This is also the starting point for the Blue/Red trail which ends at Cross Creek Drive.) The red blazes pick up at the far end of the first meadow.

Features: The Red Loop Trail skirts the west side of Hatchery Brook and allows views of some magnificent bog areas (particularly in the spring), offers a side trail that passes the farm cottage by a man-made pond built for family gatherings and outdoor dining in decades past, includes some significant areas of spring ephemerals such as trout lilies, alongside fragile *Lycopodiums* amidst black birches (also known as sweet birch) characterized more by their cankers nowadays than the wintergreen aroma of their twigs and leaves. The trail circles a deep, partly boggy hollow replete with tulip trees and 20 foot tall stands of mountain laurel, our state flower, amongst other diverse flora ... in the spring the bog has skunk cabbages two feet tall and various ferns unfurl to show their full splendor all summer long. The colors of the autumn are simply magnificent, with the diversity of species throwing yellows, oranges, reds and everything in-between. From the clearing on the high point on the eastern side of the loop, one can look across Hatchery Brook to the meadow adjacent to Kensington Road with the Orange Loop trail.

Difficulty: Easy, with gentle hills.

Be aware: The eastern sections of the trail heading across the meadows are well maintained and a path mowed along the meadow edge. The western section can get overgrown with invasives (bittersweet and autumn olive, with multi-flora rose) by summer's end, which slows hiking but aptly demonstrates the problems of non-native invasives.

The hike: From the community garden parking lot (#1) follow Blue/Red and White blazes into the meadow. About 0.1 miles into the meadow, the Blue/Red trail diverges to the left up the slope at map point #2, but from here one can already see the red blazes that mark the true beginning of the loop trail at point #3. Along



by T Andric

the edge, in the season one can observe active bluebird nesting boxes and several other species of birds, such as the iridescent blue tree swallows, feasting on insects in the unmown meadow.

At the north end of the meadow (#3), the Red Loop Trail offers two directions, north and west. Continue towards the right verge (counterclockwise) of the loop to access the White Connector trail at map



Trout Lily

point #10, the quickest connection to the Yellow and Blue Loop Trails from this part of the HBCA. There is a side trail to the right from the second meadow, just after the Red Loop Trail split at #3, which leads to an abandoned structure by a manmade pond that was once used as the farm family's summer retreat. The multi-lobed leaves of sassafras trees and saplings are well evident here.

The Red Loop Trail continues north moving from the meadows into the forest, and in spring the brown mottled leaves of trout lily line both sides of the trail. It follows a low ridge through the forest providing views to the right of Hatchery Brook. Cross a stream that feeds the bog to the left and tumbles down to Hatchery Brook on the right; eventually there will be a high clearing from where the meadows of the Orange Loop Trail (accessed via Kensington Rd. or Cross Creek Drive) are seasonally visible, while Hatchery Brook is far below to the right.



By Jim Mahoney

Continue on the Red Loop Trail up a hill and at intersection #10 it will connect with the White-blazed Connector trail. At this point, one can continue on the White Connector trail for a short distance to #9 on the Yellow Loop and the Blue/Red Trails

which overlap for about a half mile. This intersection is marked by a bench and serves as a good point to plan which route/loop to take.

If one were to instead continue on the Red

Loop, the trail traverses the old gravel road and crosses an area once marred by massive concrete blocks damaging the wetlands, now restored, and carries on around the hollow. Look deep inside to the left (southeast) and see huge stands of mountain laurel, towering tulip trees and a variety of interesting flora within the sheltered area, its own microclimate. All along the gravel path are bird boxes, some very high on trees, to attract a variety of species. The wide gravel path underfoot meets with the Blue/Red Trail at #7 and eventually both trails return downhill towards the Orchard Road entrance – be sure to rest a moment on the wooden bench at the overlook near #4 -- look over the edge of the sharp drop towards lovely views to Lamentation Mountain to the east and the Hanging Hills to the south.

The Yellow Loop Trail (1.11 miles long)

Direction of Travel: A counter clockwise loop from the bench at the #9 intersection with the White Connector Trail will bring hikers through a wooded path with statuesque trees, and eventually onto an old access road with stunning views at the top past the point where the Yellow Loop Trail path veers off to the left. The Yellow Trail heads along a ridge and by stone walls and ultimately reconnects with the Blue/Red Trail. The Blue Loop Trail intersects the Yellow Loop Trail at #12 and #13.

Difficulty: Medium.

Be aware: This trail has some fairly rocky and wet sections. Be prepared for slightly slower hiking, and bring proper footwear.

The features: This trail completely circles another lovely bog area with wetland species similar to that seen at the edges of the Red Loop Trail, that one day may have its own internal loop trail. This trail includes the old gravel and asphalt access road into the former Girl Scout camp, which skirts some interesting vegetation including native grapes, sassafras, and similar flora feasts for wildlife and makes for easier, if hilly, walking. Near the top of the old access road on a side trail are some wonderful views of the hills of the

traprock ridge of to the west — this trail hits the highest topographical points on HBCA. Stone walls are seen in several places, which often evidence ancient pasture boundaries established before the second growth forest grew and filled in the landscape — remember that much of this would have been cleared 200 years ago. This trail also features some visible rocky outcroppings of the smaller ridges pushed up from glacial times. But since many parts of this area had high use by campers, there are many spots with little undergrowth on the forest floor, with many clearings ... for now.

The hike: Counterclockwise from intersection point #9, the Yellow Loop Trail moves through forested landscape, which soon crosses into the lands once held by the Girl Scouts. Shortly after the #12 and #13 intersections with the Blue Loop Trail, this trail passes camp structures and other features of the decades of use as Camp Meribrite. Soon the trail morphs into a gravel road that transitions into a paved asphalt road. It follows a steep incline with a switchback by the stand of grape vines and sassafras. Continue up the hill keeping an eye on the yellow blazes.

The trail takes a sharp left off of the road into the forest. Pass over a stone wall, and continue on the rocky trail, which gets wider. The trail is quite wet through this section at certain times of the year, surprising given how high it is in the landscape until one recognizes how bedrock holds and releases New England groundwater — just think of the rocky cuts along highways that weep ice waterfalls in the depth of winter.

Look up and see the tall tulip trees lining this trail; during the early summer, they scatter their peach-colored blossoms on the trail. Continue on the trail until it meets with the Blue/Red trail, noting low spots to the north that could be vernal pools, and remnants of old trees fallen on the forest floor, rotting and replenishing. This part of the trail is very quiet, almost otherworldly, with few sounds of traffic, but the hints of earlier users, particularly the stone walls, reminds the hiker that this is Berlin of old, agriculture and mills, hill and dale, a community based in farming but with enough early industry to

bring products to market, a time when colonists would have been hunting the woods that still existed, while burning the wood to keep warm through cold winters. The trail eventually joins the Blue/Red Trail, and at intersection #8, one can choose to finish the loop and connect over to Cross Creek Drive, or return to the Orchard Road parking lot.

The Blue Loop Trail (0.48 miles long)

Direction of Travel: A counter-clockwise loop that weaves northward and then westward, with a nice addition created by local Boy Scouts to take advantage of the proximity of Hatchery Brook.

Difficulty: Medium

Be aware: This is a windy narrow trail that has a few areas of older unmarked paths diverging from the blazed trail that will fill in over time. Keep an eye on the blazes to ensure you continue on the marked trail.

Features: This trail wanders closer to Hatchery Brook than any other trail on the conservation land, with soggy hiking depending on the season but the lulling sounds of the babbling brook. Keep eyes peeled for deer tracks in the soft soil . . . water attracts animals, and this offers a nice respite where even the air feels moist.

The hike: The Blue Loop Trail must be reached from the Yellow Loop Trail (if one takes a right where the Yellow Loop Trail actually diverges into a loop). It is most easily accessed from the southern part of Cross Creek Drive where there is an HBCA entrance. The Blue Loop Trail head begins with a turn of of the Yellow Loop Trail at #12, down a



Camp Pump

narrower winding trail. It follows the old paths left by the abandoned Girl Scout camp; throughout this hike (and on the Yellow Loop Trail) one can

see the old structures and features of the former summer camp.

Follow a stream on your right down to the shore of a pond (used as

*Did you know that skunk cabbage
will poke up through snow and the
flower stalks
create their own 'microclimate'
that is warm enough to melt
surrounding snow, attracting the
first pollinating insects of the
year – a survivor! The fetid
smell lures insects that would
otherwise pollinate other plants.
Rhizomes may be 2 feet long
and it is thought that some
plants survive centuries! Henry
David Thoreau talked about
them in "Walden Pond" in 1854!*

a swimming hole for the camp). Here you'll cross the stream and continue up a hill. About 0.1 miles in, there is a newly created extension of the Blue Loop Trail to the right. This will lead down a steeper incline and one will hear the brook on the right, replete with abundant ferns, skunk cabbage, and the occasional deer track.

The loop heads back up and passes a large, long-ago fallen tree deeply entwined in vegetation (with lichens the size of dinner plates) before continuing up the hill. Rejoining the major trails (Blue and Yellow Loops converge here), the trail passes right by one of the old camp structures, a respite were it to rain! Soon the trail merges with the Yellow Loop Trail and after traveling

under another open

pavilion and crossing a stream, you will see a water pump just off the trail, which soon converges with the Yellow Loop Trail.

The Blue/Red Trail (1.7 miles long)

Direction of Travel: A more or less direct line that winds from south to northeast.

Difficulty: Medium

Be aware: Keep a close eye on blazes. This trail intersects and is intersected by the Red, Yellow and White Connector Trails. At no point is there just a Blue/Red trail, and often the more visible white blaze is easier to see.

The Hike: This trail passes through the various habitats described elsewhere in the trail guide, but at each end, there is something very worthwhile rewarding the journey.

On the southern end, the trail passes the bench perched on the edge overlooking the Orchard Road meadows, and more importantly, opens up to the southern and eastern vistas. This view takes in the scope of the landscape, new houses and leftovers of the old Scheer farm, the Hanging Hills and the Blue Hills Conservation Area to the south, where the Metacomet Trail connects. It is worth lingering.

On the northeastern end, the trail crosses where once upon a time, Hatchery Brook was strong enough to operate a mill, and the foundations from the historic buildings can be seen through the vegetation either side of the trail. A pond now stands there where the brook once flowed freely but careful observation will reveal a different kind of destruction



... many large 3-4 foot diameter trees now have bark completely stripped two to three feet from the ground. Beavers.

The lesson is that landscape in our state has constantly changed. Before humans set about changing the landscape, beavers used to change the landscape, until being culled by trapping. Foresters at the CT Agriculture Experiment Station, doing landmark research on change and salvation of our state forests, estimate that beavers completely altered 20% of the state landscape over time. Along with deer who are eating the understory, removing future generations of trees and nurturing materials, and invasive plants that are outcompeting native plants (or like garlic mustard, excreting allelopathic chemicals into soils that stop other plants from growing), change and (hopefully) adaptation will always characterize our fields, bogs and forests.

Remember HBCA is a demonstration of resiliency. Look hard. This too will heal, with time and some human help. Until the next climatic, environmental or biotic change. The wondrous dynamic of the natural world.

The Orange Loop Trail (0.7 miles long – the easiest trail)

Direction of Travel: A loop from eastern HBCA edge at Kensington Road, or access from the White Connector Trail from Cross Creek Drive to the north.

Difficulty: Easy

Be aware: This trail is carved by mowing a meadow. Since a goal for Connecticut Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection funded land such as this is to keep meadow habitat, which supports a number of bird species in precipitous decline, the town policy is to stop mowing except at the edges from mid-April nesting season through August. This is great to watch bird species, especially the insectivores, but the area is intended for viewing rather than walking for almost half the year. Yet if the meadow were not to be mowed at all, successional tree species would accelerate, and ultimately the forest would take over, an acute habitat loss since meadows are an 'endangered species!'



The trail: This is a simple loop with a pond at the northwest corner graced by a viewing bench that skirts the eastern side of Hatchery Brook.

There is no need to describe this. Just enjoy, listen to the rustling grasses when summer is upon us, watch the birds swoop for insects, and as with all of the trails, wear appropriate clothing and footwear, carry water and sun protection, check for ticks when through, carry out what you take in and follow good hikers' protocol.

IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING:

About Notable Trees in Hatchery Brook Conservation Area

New England has some uniquely wonderful tree species in addition to the well-known sugar maples and stately oaks. With much of the forest in New England being a second growth forest — the colonists clear cut and burned and used much of the native woodlands centuries ago — there are some trees that we see today that have dominated certain areas, flourishing over time. Oaks are a superior species, with great fire resistance, that support more species than essentially any other native tree.

The native but not nearly as common Tulip Tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, is the tallest hardwood tree in eastern North America. Both its showy flowers and its leaves resemble the silhouette of a child's drawing of a tulip. Within HBCA, there are several places with clusters of tulip trees ... in June one may notice the orange and yellow petals that have fallen along the trail, a clue



to look up and see the majestic trees. There are two sites in particular along the HBCA trails where tulip trees are evident, the easiest being the part of the Red and Blue/Red Trails between points #6 and #7, where there are several saplings right along the trail whose distinctive leaves are clues to look up!

Another unusual native is the Sassafras tree, *Sassafras albidum*, found in select areas of the eastern United States.

These trees are mostly found near the cabin clearing by the trail's start, although if you keep your eyes open, there are some elsewhere along



the Yellow Loop Trail. Sassafras trees have three different types of leaves throughout the tree, one a 'miten,' one three lobed (although sometimes it can have more than three lobes), and one a regular leaf shaped with parallel sides. It is known as the 'root beer' tree for its fragrant leaves, twigs, and especially roots, and in days of old was made into sassafras candy. But, most important to the early settlers, it was used for medicinal purposes such as making an astringent similar to witch hazel. It is a member of the Laurel family, and can grow into thickets, with saplings arising from the parent plant roots. Attractive flowers and fruits, along with its relatively small scale (30-60 feet) make this an interesting specimen, but fall HBCA hikers will note its spectacular coloration, with leaves of orange/pink, yellow/red and scarlet/purple all on the same tree.

About Vernal Pools

Scattered throughout Hatchery Brook Conservation Area, are many small sometimes temporary pools of water. These are known as vernal pools and can be seen in early spring. Some form in small depressions, swales or kettle holes created by 'glacial landscaping' that can intercept seasonally high groundwater tables. Some simply create collector areas for runoff from precipitation, and both are important to ecological communities; these may be dry in some years, but nature is patient. Many pools are in woodlands, but they can exist in meadows and floodplains as well.



Fairy Shrimp, Flicker photo

Vernal pools are shallow temporary pools of water rarely exceeding 150 feet in width and three feet in depth, and often are only a few yards across. They are ephemeral... they disappear in part of the year. But the critical role they play in the ecological community far exceeds their size, supporting millions of

microscopic organisms along with amphibians and reptiles, insects, and invertebrate organisms such as fairy shrimp. Fairy shrimp are almost transparent swimming crustaceans that only live in vernal pools – their eggs can survive 20 years in drought until the rains return.

Many creatures such as salamanders and certain frogs and toads can only breed in vernal pools – vernal pools have no fish, hence there are no predators for the egg masses so crucial to a population's survival. They must breed and hatch at precisely the right time before the pool dries up each year. Over time, pools that keep water longer are favored by the genetic memory of these determined creatures. Entire local populations of wood frogs, in the right weather, will arrive at their vernal pool within hours with breeding completed in 1-2 days. The males' quacking calls can be heard far beyond the pool, and sound more like ducks than the croaks, thwangs, and ribbets expected of other frogs! As you hike HBCA in the spring, wood frogs can be heard from points on every trail.



When spring is past, the pools disappear in summer's heat; they will have done their work for generations to come and can only be found by depressions containing discarded caddisfly cases, or shells of the tiny land clams or amphibious air-breathing snails. The Native American proverb admonishes, "The frog does not drink up the pond in which it lives." Vernal pools are lessons in the survival instincts and adaptability of the ecology of life.

(Some of the material above can be found in "Life in the Fleeting Waters" by Steven M. Roble, Ph.D., the Wetlands Wildlife Biologist for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.)

About Ridges and Watercourses and Reclamation – Geology of Time in Hatchery Brook Conservation Area

Nestled in a setting that is surrounded by traprock basalt ridges that thrust upward during the violent geologic shifts of the Ice Age, and spanning water resources that date back to the glaciers, Berlin's history was carved more by the glaciers than by humans.

Hatchery Brook is actually one of five lengthy stream corridors in the town of Berlin, and, as is the way of all New England, Connecticut towns often grew along streams and rivers, using the waterpower for their mills and early economic ventures. It could thus be argued that stream melt from glaciers, not human ideas, really determined the locations for towns. The Connecticut River has created a deposit-rich river valley that supports agriculture, as have select streams in Berlin.

The geology of disruption left basalt (also known as traprock for the step-like sheering of its structure); like rich fluvial soils, this has been a Central Connecticut asset, with quarries mining it for paving underlay. Within HBCA there are a few traprock ridges, easier to spot on a USGS topographic map than on the hike itself, but the one that is no longer evident is the one that once lay where the field of bluebird boxes stands. In the day of the Scheer farm, this area was part of the ridge, and the gravel was excavated, truck by truck, in the 1970s to form the base of Meriden Square Mall! The reclamation of the landscape — bringing in topsoil, re-vegetating with appropriate plantings, and in the case of the Scheer family, the transformation of the excavated pit into productive fields of corn and other crops — illustrates how ultimately growth and reforestation win. But note that invasive plants love disturbance ... throughout this part of the property invasive species, such as autumn olive and multiflora rose and bittersweet, thrive.

About Bluebirds and Meadow Habitat

The line of bluebird boxes seen from the Orchard Road parking lot, along with the others on the Red Loop Trail, evidence Citizen Science at work. A diligent local man trained with Cornell University's Nest Watch program then installed the boxes and has been documenting the residents of the boxes each week (in season) for the past five years, helping the university examine changes in species timing and locations. The purpose?

This project helps to understand the effects of seasonal, climate and habitat changes on migratory wildlife, among other things. This citizen scientist documents who and what happens in each box: the date a box is occupied, who occupies the box, the nest formation, the number of eggs, incubation time, what the chicks look like at specific dates (feathers or naked) and when they fledge (leave the nest) as well as deaths and predatory events (for instance, house sparrows have been known to enter the boxes and lay eggs in existing nests, whose chicks later die, possibly by the sparrows.)



Bluebird babies by Tim Andiric

This work requires considerable training as to method and timing so as not to harm or alarm the nesting. This diligent citizen scientist's work at HBCA with Nest Watch creates valuable time series records that Cornell can use to look at change in migratory birds and habitat. Reports go to the Berlin Conservation Commission as well as Cornell University. For instance, early 2013 outcomes indicated that Bluebirds would have a higher success rate than past years, while Tree Swallow, the iridescent grey-blue insectivore that favor the boxes had significant deaths early in the 2013 season, possibly due to the extreme cold as the migrants returned from the southern US.

It is critical that hikers take care and leave these boxes alone to do their very important work. But do note as you walk the field the acrobatics of the tree swallows, in particular, insectivores that entertain while eating many of the bugs that would cause us humans some annoyance!

There are not many meadows and grasslands like the ones within the early HBCA parcel acquisitions by Orchard and Kensington Roads, since farm fields have been lost in so many areas across the state. For the past several years, Connecticut Audubon's annual data confirmed a serious decline of grassland and shrubland birds, and many are now on the endangered, threatened and special concern lists. CT Audubon writes that "because of their conspicuousness, mobility and popularity, birds make good indicators and studying trends in bird populations is an excellent way to monitor environmental health overall." Back in 1962, Rachel Carson was alarmed by dying songbirds and thus alerted us all to the dangers of DDT and other pesticides in her book **Silent Spring**. Birds matter.

So the meadows at Hatchery Brook are left to grow to help supply meadow habitat for species survival, including many ground-nesting birds, being hayed only after the nesting season. As time goes on, they may require more extreme management to be sure that they stay in grasses rather than succumb to successional forest. Unfortunately, they also contain some terribly invasive species, including multi-flora rose, garlic mustard and bitersweet, which over time degrade all habitats by crowding out desirable species.

The maintenance of these meadows will be a work in progress, but their presence is a crucial part of the ecosystem and birds of Connecticut, and, now, of the Citizen Science research linking Northeast bird migratory and reproduction trends and environmental change.

About Pollinators

When the Scheer family members worked the farm and orchards, they may have occasionally invited a neighbor or contractor to come and set up some bee hives, a very normal agricultural activity. Not only their apple and pear trees (*once located up on the hill to the west of the line of bluebird boxes*), but most vegetables would have been improved by this – pollinators often complete the biological function creating fruits and vegetables. The Hatchery Brook Community Gardens, recognizing this crucial need, worked with volunteers to plant a perimeter border of native plants and nectar-filled flowers to attract pollinators, helping all the gardeners. As shown in the pictures, butterflies, bees and moths have enjoyed the flowers as much as hikers and gardeners do! **SO NOW HIKE AND ENJOY!**



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Unless otherwise noted, photos by Karen M Pierson

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Because new trails are being carved, marked (blazed), and new lands added to HBCA, all hikers should check the town website for the most up to date maps at town.berlin.ct.us

Please visit the Town of Berlin's Conservation Commission's page on the town website at

<http://www.town.berlin.ct.us/department/board.php?structureid=110>

and click "Open Space Trail Maps" to view the trail maps.

The Town of Berlin has several conservation areas with hiking trails, including Blue Hills Conservation Area, Timberlin Park, Ragged Mountain, Pistol Creek, Beckley Quarry and Bicentennial Park. All major areas with trails have maps that can be found on the website.

For more information about Conservation, go to Community Services and look for Conservation Commission and Open Space.

The Hatchery Brook Conservation Area Trail Guide is brought to you by the Berlin Conservation Commission

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