



Self-Guided Trail Guide for the Madison section of the Shoreline Greenway Trail

Welcome to the Madison section of the Shoreline Greenway Trail

Starting at the Trailhead Parking lot you can get basic information at our Shoreline Greenway Trail kiosk.

Take the path (and paved trail) approximately 1/8 mile into Hammonasset Beach State Park towards the entrance connector.

Right behind the kiosk is a Mutt Mitts dispenser that provides dog clean up bags. This is provided and maintained by the Friends Of Hammonasset – another great organization. Remember to properly dispose of these in the dedicated Mutt Mitts cans (one is just ahead and only for these – no trash) when cleaning up after your leashed pet.

On your left will be a blue water station graciously granted from REI sports in Milford. It has water fountains for both humans and leashed pets.

Continuing, you'll pass the first of many salt marsh estuaries to right and then left. You may be lucky to see a feeding snowy egret or hunting Osprey.

Cross the entrance connector carefully and take an immediate right onto the trail. Continue north, paralleling the entrance road and notice more salt marshes to your left. Take a break and catch a great view at our viewing benches -these were kindly, part of an eagle scout project.

Step onto the causeway that crosses a small stream and across to a wooded section. Continue to follow the trail seeing Oak, Beech and Sassafras trees.

Continue along a section that has the Post Road on the right and HBSP campgrounds on the left. The ground depression on the right, just before the post road, is from the initial construction of US1 and roughly follows the old Trolley Trail that was abandoned in the early 1900's.

Continue along the trail with your first direct view of the sound from across a salt marsh with its linear "mosquito control trenches" dug in during WWI.

Continue back into the wooded section and follow along noticing beautiful stone lintels set along the trail. Several of these were recovered and set during the initial construction of this section.

Follow along and see a 'reclaimed' pasture to the right. You know this due to the age of the trees vs originals surrounding the area. You'll also see a set of 'benches' that were recovered from being washed up in a prior storm and positioned for a quick rest.

Continue up a rise and notice stone steps leading up to the right back to the original pasture area or possible Native American "midden" site where feasts of oysters and other catches were enjoyed.

Follow down, back along the Post Road and notice more views and narrative board that identifies some of the history, plants and fauna.

You'll finally come to the end of this wooded section - congrats 1.2 miles!!

Although the trail continues on using shared roadway onto the Guilford, Branford and East Haven Sections, most people turn and return to the Trailhead where started.

[Website QR code for self-guided walk tab]



About the Shoreline Greenway Trail

Celebrating its 20th Anniversary, The Shoreline Greenway Trail is a project to build a trail and connect communities in a 25-mile corridor from New Haven to Madison, improving bicycle and pedestrian accessibility between and within those towns. Shoreline Greenway Trail, a nonprofit organization, is primary advocate for the effort.