

Giuffrida Park Trail Map

The map was created using open source software, Geographic Resources Analysis Support System (GRASS). The background is a shaded relief map generated from National Elevation Dataset (NED) data obtained from the United States Geological Survey (USGS), reproduced at a scale of about 1:17,000. Each shade of color represents a change in elevation of 100 ft. Map overlay data were obtained from USGS 1:24,000 scale topographic maps, with GPS field corrections for some brooks.

The location of each trail and landmark was determined from GPS tracks and waypoints recorded during the year 2009. Note that portions of blazed trails may have been relocated since then.

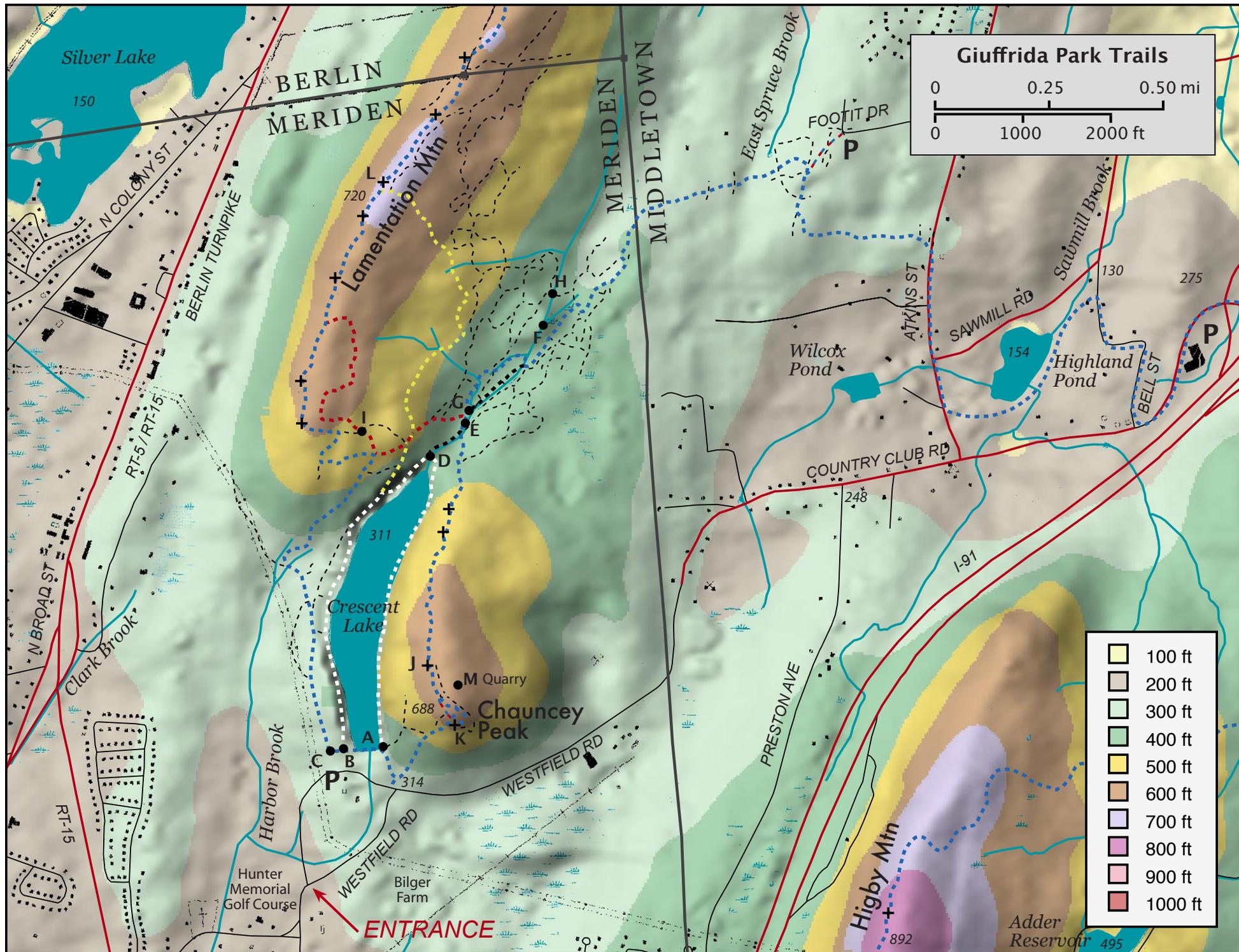
An excellent source of up-to-date information on the blue-blazed Mattabesett Trail is the web site for the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, the organization that maintains the blue-blazed trails. <http://www.ctwoodlands.org/blue-blazed-hiking-trails>

Legend

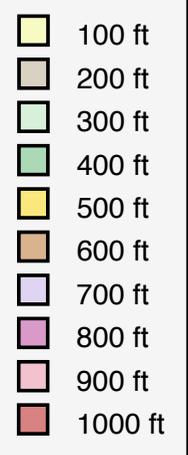
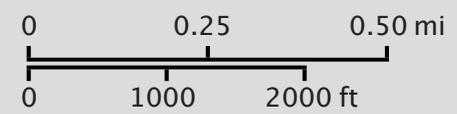
- Streets
- White-Blazed Trail
- Blue-Blazed Trail
- Blue_Red-Blazed Trail
- Red-Blazed Trail
- Yellow-Blazed Trail
- Unblazed Major Trail
- Unblazed Side Trail
- Parking
- Brooks, Ponds
- Town Line
- Scenic Overlook
- Other Trail Landmark

Trail Landmarks [Elevation]

- | | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|----------|
| A | Trailhead (White/Blue) | [310 ft] |
| B | Trailhead, Sign (White) | [320 ft] |
| C | Trailhead, Gate (Blue) | [325 ft] |
| D | Footbridge (Near Reservoir) | [330 ft] |
| E | Canal | [330 ft] |
| F | Wetland Meadow | [340 ft] |
| G | Waterfall | [350 ft] |
| H | Footbridge (Near Meadow) | [380 ft] |
| I | Shelter | [525 ft] |
| J | Chauncey Peak (Reservoir Overlook) | [560 ft] |
| K | Chauncey Peak (S. Overlook) | [650 ft] |
| L | Mt. Lamentation (N.W. Overlook) | [700 ft] |
| M | Suzio Quarry | - |



Giuffrida Park Trails



Trail Descriptions

Mattabesett Trail [Blue]

The Meriden segment of this National Scenic Trail passes through Giuffrida Park on its way from Mt. Higby in Middletown to the beginning of the Metacomet Trail where the trail crosses the Berlin Turnpike in Berlin. Entering the park from the north east, the blue-blazed trail passes by a beautiful wetland meadow, parallels a canal built in the 19th century, and climbs the ridgeline of Chauncey Peak, with stunning views of Crescent Lake (Bradley Hubbard Reservoir) and all of Meriden. After descending and crossing the parking lot, the trail then ascends and follows the ridgeline of Mt. Lamentation, with views ranging from Long Island to Mt. Tom in Massachusetts. Leaving Meriden, the trail descends to Spruce Brook Rd. in Berlin.

Crescent Lake Loop [White]

The white-blazed trail starts at the picnic area at the west end of the spillway, and follows the western shoreline to the northern tip of the reservoir. The trail turns right across a footbridge over an upper branch of Harbor Brook and returns along the eastern shoreline.

Wetland Meadow [Black]

An unblazed trail continues north from the reservoir, along the west bank of an upper branch of Harbor Brook. This trail passes a deep canal cut through stone and a small seasonal waterfall before continuing to the southern tip of a wetland meadow. There are two short sections where the blue-blazed Mattabesett trail follows this track.

Mount Lamentation [Red or Yellow]

In addition to the blue-blazed trail, both red- and yellow-blazed trails ascend to the ridgeline of Mt. Lamentation. The yellow trail ascends from the white-blazed trail to a poorly marked intersection with the Mattabesett Trail near one of the best overlooks. The red trail turns sharply away from the blue trail as it passes a deep canal cut through stone, passes by an old shelter, and intersects the blue-blazed trail at the ridge line.

Suggested Hikes

Crescent Lake Loop [White]

[Easy, 2.0 mi, 40 ft total ascent, 1.0 hr] Start in the picnic area near the parking lot and follow the white-blazed trail along the west edge of the reservoir. This segment is flat, but with many tree roots. There are several connections to an alternate unblazed trail to the west that returns to the parking lot. Bear right (descend) at the fork and then turn right across a footbridge at the north tip of the reservoir. Follow the trail back to the spillway along the eastern edge of the reservoir. This segment is rockier, and a bit hard to follow the blazes (when in doubt, hug the shore).

Wetland Meadow [White/Black/Blue]

[Easy, 3.1 mi, 50 ft total ascent, 1.6 hr] Follow the white-blazed Crescent Lake trail (as above), but continue straight along the west bank of the small brook instead of turning to cross the footbridge. Note (but do not follow) the blue-blazes that ascend toward Chauncey Peak across the next footbridge. At the northern end of a deep canal cut through stone, note the small seasonal waterfall on the left with blue blazes ascending along the edge of the channel. Continue straight to the southern end of a wetland meadow, after again intersecting the blue-blazed trail. Return the way you came.

Suggested Hikes, Cont.

Mt. Lamentation Loop [White/Yellow/Blue/Red]

[Moderate, 4.3 mi, 470 ft total ascent, 2.6 hr] Start at the picnic area and follow the white blazed trail along the western shoreline. Bear left at the fork to follow the yellow blazes. At the top of the hill continue straight along a short section of red-blazed trail, but turn left to follow the yellow blazes at the next intersection. As you approach the peak of Mount Lamentation, ascend a small embankment to an unblazed trail and continue slightly to the left until you reach the blue-blazed trail. There are several nice overlooks within a quarter of a mile in either direction. Turn left and follow the blue blazes until it intersects with a red-blazed trail. Turn left and follow the red blazes past an old shelter to an intersection where the red and blue trails “kiss”. Instead of turning left to follow the red blazes or right to ascend on the blue trail, continue straight to descend on the blue trail. At the bottom, turn left to follow the blue blazes back to the gate near the parking lot.

Chauncey Peak Loop [Blue/Black/White]

[Moderate, 2.7 mi, 530 ft total ascent, 1.9 hr] Start at the trail that leads into the woods at the east end of the spillway. Turn right and follow the blue blazes as they ascend very steeply to Chauncey Peak. When the trail descends into a ravine, turn right to follow a blue-blazed spur that leads to a panoramic view to the east, south and west. Return to the ravine, and turn right to follow the blue-blazed trail along the ridge line overlooking Crescent Lake. At the bottom, cross the footbridge and turn left to leave the blue-blazed trail and follow the unblazed and white-blazed trails back to the parking area.

Mattabesett Trail Toward Mt. Higby [Blue]

[Moderate, 5.6 mi, 700 ft total ascent, 3.5 hr (one way)] Follow the blue-blazed trail to Chauncey Peak and along the ridge line (as above). At the bottom, cross the footbridge and follow the blue blazes to the right. At the northern end of a deep canal, turn left to follow the blue blazes up along the edge of a small seasonal waterfall. Follow the blue blazes as they descend to the wetland meadow. Turn right (away from the meadow) and quickly turn left to ascend the eastern side of the meadow. At the north end of the meadow turn sharply right and follow the blue blazes to Atkins road. Turn right, follow the street past a cemetery on the right, turn left into the woods past Highland Pond and along Sawmill Brook. Turn right on Bell St. and follow it to Country Club Rd. Turn left and follow the street to the commuter lot on the west side of I-91 at Exit 20 (Country Club Rd.).

Chauncey/Lamentation Loop [Blue/Red]

[Difficult, 7.1 mi, 970 ft total ascent, 4.7 hr] Follow the blue-blazed trail to Chauncey Peak and along the ridge line overlooking Crescent Lake (as above). At the bottom, cross the footbridge but follow the blue blazes to the right. After a short distance, turn left to follow the red blazes up a ravine. Where the red and blue trails “kiss”, turn right to follow the red blazes past an old shelter. Continue on the red trail to the blue trail at the ridge line of Mount Lamentation. Turn right to follow the blue trail for three quarters of a mile, enjoying numerous overlooks of Silver Lake and the Hanging Hills. On a clear day you can see from Long Island to Mt. Tom in Massachusetts. Return along the blue-blazed trail, but continue straight at the intersection with the red trail. Follow the blue blazes back down the mountain, past a trail that goes past the shelter, and switch back sharply to the left at the intersection where the red and blue trails “kiss”. At the bottom turn left to follow the blue blazes back to the gate near the parking lot.

Park History

Giuffrida Park is located in Meriden's northeast corner, next to the Hunter Memorial Municipal Golf Course. It consists of the former Bradley-Hubbard Reservoir (also known as Crescent Lake) and the nearly 600 acres surrounding it, and was acquired by the city from CL&P in 1965, with funding partly from the Open Spaces Program of the time. In its early stages, the reservoir was added to the city's water supply during dry periods, and steps were taken to improve and secure the water's taste and safety.

The new land was named for Dr. Francis Giuffrida, a beloved city surgeon who had died at a young age in 1966. In 1976, the city acquired funds from the Bicentennial Commission to construct a “Gateway to Nature”, and there were improvements to the road through the park. By and large, apart from walking trails, the land has remained undeveloped, much as it was when acquired.

Hiking Info

Location Giuffrida Park is located in the northeast corner of Meriden, near Hunter Golf Course, with entrances on Westfield Rd. (accessible from Bee St. or Country Club Rd. (Exit 20 on I-91).

Parking Substantial parking is available within Giuffrida Park, and at a commuter lot on Country Club Rd. on the west side of I-91 (Exit 20).

Terrain Giuffrida Park offers everything from a peaceful reservoir to a beautiful wetland meadow to stunning views from Lamentation Mountain and Chauncey Peak. These trap rock ridges are extremely steep, and care should be taken. In addition to trails that climb to ridgelines, there are other trails that follow relatively level terrain.

Gear Hikers should wear sturdy shoes or boots on rocky or slippery trails. Don't forget water, and if you carry a daypack you will also have room for a snack, cell phone, binoculars, camera, field guide, first aid kit, insect repellent, etc.

Difficulty Most hikes within the park range between 1 and 7 miles round trip. Each of the suggested hikes has a time estimate that accounts for elevation change and includes time for enjoying the view. These times can be used as a general difficulty rating (0 - 2 hr = Easy, 2 - 4 hr = Moderate, 4 - 6 hr = Difficult).

Following Blazes Many of the trails in the park are marked with colored blazes located on trees or rocks. To avoid getting lost, pay close attention to the blazes. A double-blaze, with the top blaze offset to one side, indicates that the trail turns in the direction of the offset.

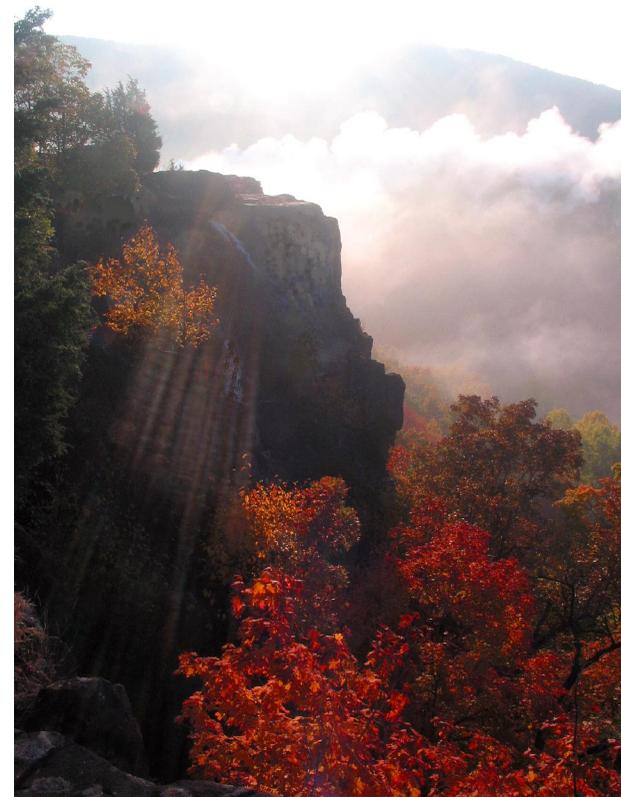
The next blaze will usually be visible on a well-blazed trail, except along a paved road. If you don't see the blaze, turn around and look behind you to be sure you are still on the trail. If you do not see a blaze in either direction, re-trace your steps until you find the previous blaze, and investigate further. The blazed trail may take an unexpected turn away from the main path, or a blaze may be on a fallen tree.

Credits Many thanks to Bob Pagini for the cover photograph and to Dwight Needels for the map and GPS data.

Printed courtesy of Connecticut Color, Inc. (located in Meriden, CT).

Order our consolidated trail guide or download free copies of trail guides for other Meriden Parks from our website.

Giuffrida Park Hiking Trails



Meriden Land Trust
<http://www.meridenlandtrust.org>