

2025 Northwest Park Trail Hike Challenge

Hike the entire length of each of the park's trails by 12/21/25. You don't have to hike them all in one day. Use this log sheet to document your success as you go. Fill in your information clearly, then bring your completed sheet to the Park Office, submit online: townofwindsorct.com/recreation/northwest-park or mail to Northwest Park Trail Hike Challenge, 145 Lang Rd, Windsor CT 06095 to receive an award in recognition of your achievement!

Trail	Self-guided discovery to enhance your journey	Date Hiked
	Bog Trail: Close your eyes and navigate the Bog Trail by following the guide rope. With your sight taken away, your other senses sharpen—feel the textures, hear the subtle sounds, and breathe in the rich scents.	
	Brookside Trail: Erosion leads to the formation of curves as the stream erodes the bank. Can you see evidence of how water has affected the landscape of this trail?	
	Conservation Trail: Trees create shade, reducing the amount of direct sunlight reaching the forest floor. This prevents the ground from absorbing as much heat, leading to cooler temperatures in the forest compared to the sun-exposed field. Pay attention to the air temperature as you walk between the forest and the north field. Do you notice a difference between the two areas?	
	Hemlock Trail: Take in the beauty of these slow-growing ancient trees that can live up to 800 years. Hemlocks thrive in complete shade where others would perish!	
	Open Forest Trail: For trees in forests, striving for light is a matter of life and death, either by growing taller toward brighter conditions or by expanding the crown to capture more of the available light. As you walk the trail notice the different heights of trees.	
	Pond Trail: Beavers are known as "ecosystem engineers" because they actively modify their environment through dam construction and other activities. Look out onto the Beaver Pond. See if you can spot the two beaver lodges and locate the dam.	
	Rainbow Reservoir Trail: Water Levels fluctuate due to precipitation, snowmelt, evaporation, and human activities such as damming and water extraction. Look at the river. Does the water level look high or low today?	
	Softwood Forest: Softwoods come from conifer (or evergreen) trees. These trees (like pines, cedars and spruces) have needle-like leaves that usually remain green year-round. Do you see mostly ever-green coniferous trees on this trail or are there also some leafy, deciduous ones?	
	Triassic Trail: The CT River Valley was once a subtropical region filled with lakes and swamps when dinosaurs roamed here 200 million years ago. Find the dinosaur footprint that is displayed on this trail. What is this dinosaur's name?	
	Wetland Forest Trail: On a slope, soil gradually moves downhill, a process called soil creep. This movement can push the base of a tree, causing it to lean or curve. Notice the trees on the hill above the river. Are they straight or curved?	
	Woody Succession Trail: When a field is left undisturbed, grasses, then shrubs grow. Seeds carried by wind and animals begin to germinate and trees grow. Over time, as trees grow larger, they begin to shade out the grasses & shrubs, creating a more forest-like environment. Can you see evidence of this progression?	

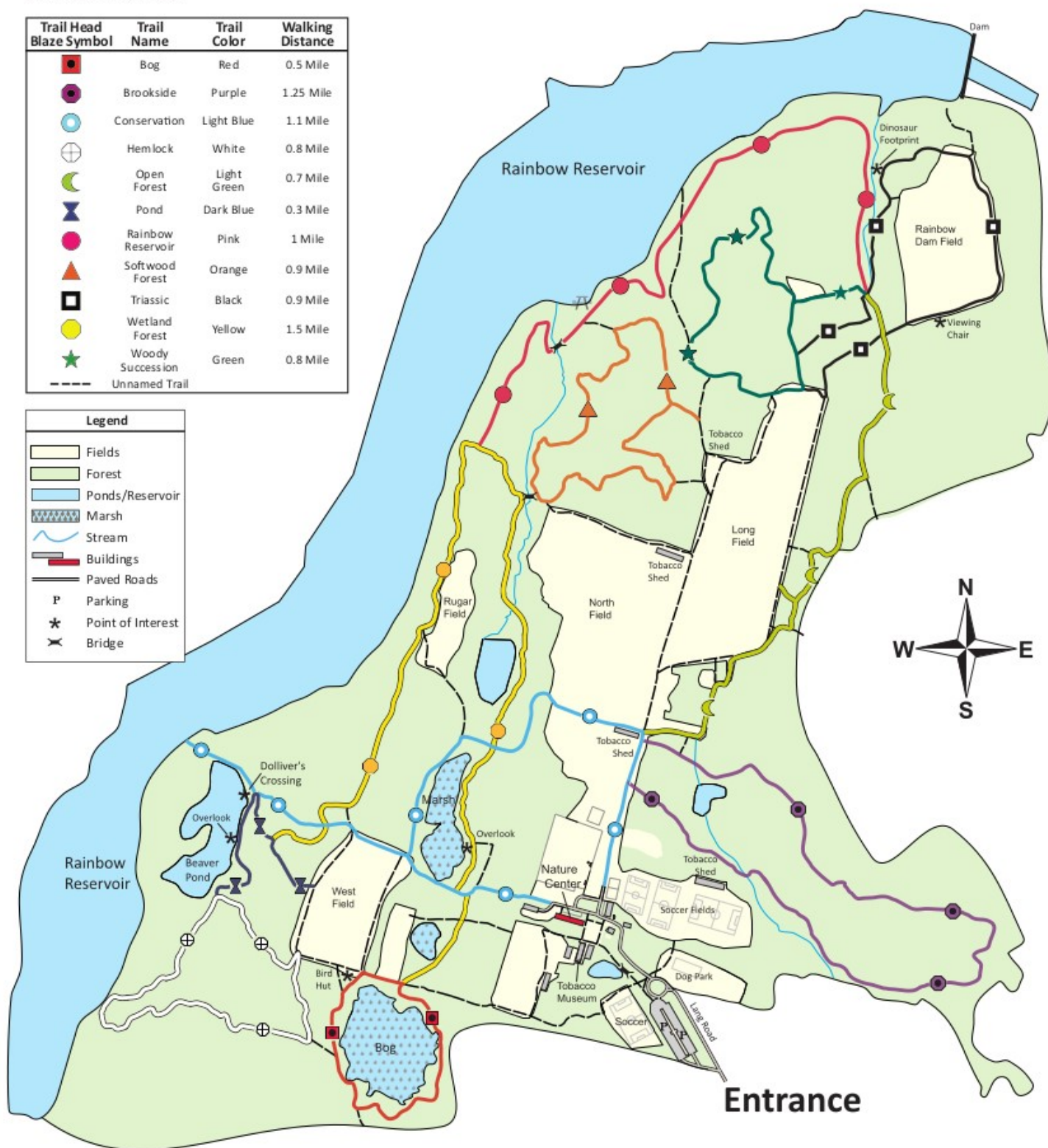
First name: _____ Last name: _____ Age (optional): _____
 Street address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

NORTHWest PARK

145 Lang Road Windsor, CT 06095 | 860.285.1886
townofwindsorct.com/recreation

Trail Head Blaze Symbol	Trail Name	Trail Color	Walking Distance
	Bog	Red	0.5 Mile
	Brookside	Purple	1.25 Mile
	Conservation	Light Blue	1.1 Mile
	Hemlock	White	0.8 Mile
	Open Forest	Light Green	0.7 Mile
	Pond	Dark Blue	0.3 Mile
	Rainbow Reservoir	Pink	1 Mile
	Softwood Forest	Orange	0.9 Mile
	Triassic	Black	0.9 Mile
	Wetland Forest	Yellow	1.5 Mile
	Woody Succession	Green	0.8 Mile
	Unnamed Trail		

Legend	
	Fields
	Forest
	Ponds/Reservoir
	Marsh
	Stream
	Buildings
	Paved Roads
	Parking
	Point of Interest
	Bridge



Map Created by:
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www.orienteingunlimited.com