

## Shade Swamp Sanctuary White Trail 2.3 miles

The Shade Swamp Sanctuary is an 800 acre property owned by the State of Connecticut located on the west and east side of New Britain Avenue. In 1955 the White Trail was created as 2.3 mile nature trail that identified 14 natural features. In 1995 the Trail Guide was updated and the 14 numbers on this map are found in the booklet on pages 1-16. In 2022 the Trail Guidebook became a PDF that can be downloaded from Farmington's Short Hikes website. Pages 26-32 of the Guidebook provides great additional information. Having the Guidebook on your cell phone would add to your experiences on these trails.

There is parking ( 41.705064 -72.866981 ) for 5 cars in front of the gate that was used by the Farmington Office of Connecticut's DEEP. The original White Trail forms a "lollipop" shape with the stem in the south and loop in the north. The stem can be wet in the early spring, so the alternative is following the Dry White trail (DW) that has no trail blazes. The DW turns northeast in front of the pond and then due east through a new clearing where the Farmington office buildings of the DEEP used to be located. (note this satellite map still shows the 2 buildings). When you reach the forest turn 90° left (north), following the edge of the forest to discover a wide unmarked trail (DW) that will connect in 0.4 miles to the original White Trail (W). There is a #4 at this junction and a signpost pointing to the direction to the White Trail going south.

Follow the W trail north to the #5 signpost in the photo. The vertical signpost points to the right and the #5 is located on a tree on the right side of the trail. Turn right to follow the original W trail due east. At 0.7 miles the trail turns north and at 0.9 miles you reach a "T" junction with a white #9 posted on a tree. Turn 90° right. The trail continues north, past some major tree work, and then starts turning west.

At 1.1 miles you will see a double white marker set at a trail junction marking a left turn (#11). At 1.2 miles (#12) follow the white markers (W) heading south. At 1.5 miles, there is a "T" junction with a right turn sign. Turn right and look for the nearby white #14 on a tree. At 1.6 miles, return to the signpost at #5. Continue straight (south) and retrace your steps back to junction with the DW you used earlier. Turn 90° right to follow the original White Trail back to your car if the trail conditions you experienced have been dry. Otherwise return to your car on the DW trail.

If you are lucky you might find a copy of the original Trail Guide (TG) in a small wooden box on a post to the right of the white #1 sign.

