



## Area P5 ALDRICH PARK



**Parking Area and Entrance to Aldrich Park**

Size: 65 acres

**ACCESS/PARKING:** Entrance on New Road, near intersection with Farmingville Road. Abundant parking. Space for five cars if gate is closed; or past opened gate, up the road to parking lot; on Stonehenge Road at intersection with Still Road, roadside parking on north shoulder. Yellow trail begins on driveway across Still Road. [GPS Address: 10 New Road]

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy to moderate, depending on the trail selected.

**FEATURES:** Aldrich Park has woodland trails with outcroppings of ledge, boulder fields, glacial erratics, and stone walls. In the winter, views of the Redding ridgetops and Norwalk River wetlands near Stonehenge Pond and Route 7 from the yellow and blue trails. In the spring Pileated, Red-Bellied, and Downy woodpeckers can be seen, as well as Red-tailed hawks soaring in the wind. Mushrooms varieties can be seen in the late summer. Deer and numerous bird species can be seen throughout the park. Trails include:

- The yellow trail (moderate, with steep switchback sections between ridge and swamp, 2 hours), the woodlands near the ballfield are in transition from farmlands and grazing pastures to woodlands — notice the stone walls and the small size of the trees. The southwestern yellow loop passes near large glacial erratics, and a grove of beech trees. The northern spur descends from the ridgetop with views of the Norwalk River Watershed, home to salamander and other amphibians. The trail beside the wetlands follows a pedestrian easement which was originally an old dirt road, then climbs again for a view of Stonehenge Pond, descends to cross a footbridge, and then goes out to Still Road near Stonehenge Inn.
- The orange trail (easy, 30 minutes) is a relatively flat woodland walk with bridges and walkways over stream and wetlands.
- The blue trail (moderate except for steep section where blue climbs up the ridge to meet the yellow trail) follows a gurgling stream, passing a glacial boulder field before it ascends steeply to the ridge and its views.

**HISTORY:** The Park's original 37-acres were donated by Larry Aldrich. Additional acreage was purchased by the Open Space Conservation Fund, or through the subdivision process.



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