



Area 10 SARAH BISHOP



Looking West on the old Railroad Bed.

Size: 39 acres

ACCESS/PARKING: On the south side of Sarah Bishop Road, 0.15 mile west of Twopence Road near #27 Sarah Bishop Road. Pedestrian easement is along grass on left side of driveway for 65 Sarah Bishop Road, parking at the cul-de-sac. [GPS Address: 28 Sarah Bishop Road]

DIFFICULTY: Easy, with some uphill. 30 minutes.

FEATURES: Sarah Bishop's elevated trail and bridge provide a good wetlands platform for viewing amphibians and reptiles basking in spring and summer sun. Part of this trail follows a deserted railroad bed that was to be used as a rail line that would run from Golden's Bridge to Danbury. The tracks were removed during World War I, so the steel could be used for the war effort, and the railroad plan was abandoned.

The elevated walkway through the wetlands and the ridge trail both continue past town open space onto private land. Please be careful to follow the marked trail.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: A short trail.

HISTORY: Sarah Bishop came to Ridgefield during the last few years of the Revolutionary War after the British had burned down her father's home on Long Island. She chose to live sparsely as a hermit in a natural cave on West Mountain, occasionally visiting neighbors and attending church services. She usually dressed in rags and lived on vegetables, fruits, and nuts from her garden and the surrounding area. One evening in 1810, on the way back to her cave, Sarah fell and perished from the cold. This property was acquired through the Chestnut Hill subdivision.



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