

Shade Swamp Sanctuary White Trail 1.8 - 2.1 miles



The Shade Swamp Sanctuary is an 800 acre property owned by the State of Connecticut located on the west and east of New Britain Avenue. There is parking (41° 42' 18.23" N 72° 52' 1.13" W) for 5 cars in front of the gate that was used by the Farmington Office for Connecticut's DEEP. The White Trail forms a "lollipop" shape with the stem in the south and loops in the north. There are 3 options for the stem: the original White Trail (W) made by the DEEP, which can be wet and crosses a primitive bridge, the dry white narrow trail (dw), or the Dry White wide trail (DW). The DW is the most popular year round route. All stems are 0.3 miles long and end at the same signpost.

The loops have 3 options: an oval loop (1.8 miles), the original loop (W 2.0 miles), and a figure 8 loop (2.1 miles). The oval loop starts past the gate following the old paved driveway past the DEEP abandoned garage and turning 90° to the left following the DW wide unmarked trail (note small satellite map). At 0.3 miles continue straight past the signpost shared by the W & dw stem trails. Follow the W trail north to the next signpost at 0.5 miles (#5 is located on a tree to the right (note photo)). Turn right to follow the original W trail. At 0.8 miles turn right to follow W past a few picnic benches. At 0.9 miles turn 90° left. There is no sign here and an old trail goes straight. At 1.1 miles turn 90° left again. There is no sign, but it keeps you on the W trail and avoids any descent. At 1.2 miles, there is a "T" junction without a sign. The W trail actually turns 90° left. Bear to the right on a well used narrow trail (OL) heading due south. You will complete this oval loop when you reach the #5 signpost at 1.3 miles. Continue straight to retrace your steps back to your car at 1.8 miles.

The original White Trail (W) starts by the gate and turns left next to the pond. At 0.3 miles it turns 90° left at the signpost shared by all the stems. Follow the above directions to 1.2 miles at the "T" junction without a sign. Turn left and reach another "T" junction plus signpost at 1.3 miles. Turn right passing #14 on a tree. At 1.5 miles, return to the signpost at #5. Retrace your steps back to your car at 2.0 miles.

The figure 8 loops follows the DW trail to the trail sign at #5. Continue straight on W passing the #14 and the picnic tables. Continue counter clockwise around the upper loop, but turning left at the "T" junction near #14. Turn right at 1.4 miles to follow W clockwise back to the #5 signpost at 1.6 miles. Retrace your steps back to your car at 2.0 miles.

The link for the original White Trail map: <http://www.farmington-ct.org/home/showdocument?id=30>

A link to 9 photos on the White Trail: <http://patch.com/connecticut/farmington/bp--shade-swamp-sanctuary-white-trail>