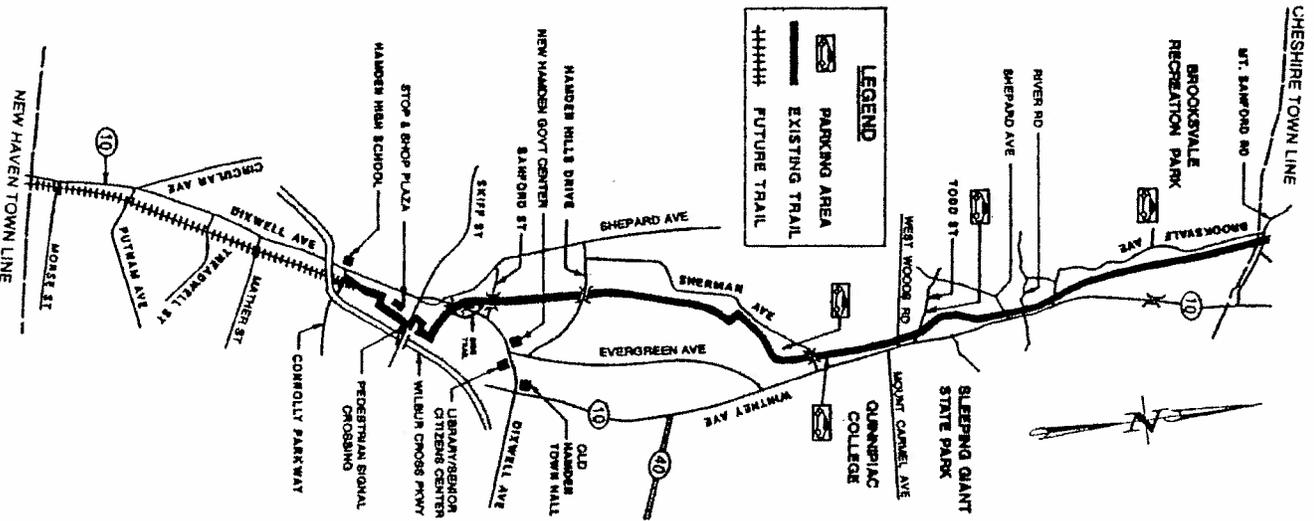


FARMINGTON CANAL GREENWAY



TOWN OF HAMDEN

Farmington Canal Greenway Rules and Regulations

Per Town Code Sec. 95.99 (B) Adopted 5-6-91:

- **Be courteous.**
- **Travel on the right side of the trail at all times.**
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Vehicles of any type are not permitted, unless expressly authorized by the Director of Parks and Recreation or his designee.
- The Greenway shall be closed one half (1/2) hour after sunset until one half hour (1/2) after dawn the following morning.
- No person is allowed on the Greenway while it is closed.
- No horses.
- No skateboards.
- Bicyclists yield to pedestrians.
- STOP when crossing town roads. When you arrive at the yellow posts (bollards), STOP to look for cars on the road. Bicyclists and rollerbladers, when passing someone, should ring a bell or call out. **DO NOT SLUDDENLY OVERTAKE** hikers on the trail; this is dangerous for both parties.
- **DO NOT TRESPASS** on private property along the trail.
- Bicyclists should **NOT** use the stonedust sides of the trail.
- Dogs must be **ON A LEASH**. Hamden has a pooper scooper law which is enforced.
- Hunters and firearms are not permitted on the trail.

Trail maintained by:

Hamden Parks and Recreation Department
2750 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518.

Telephone 287-2579.

Hours 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday.

After hours call 230-4000. Emergency call 911.

Special thanks to

Rol Shaw

Alfano & MacBroom, Inc.
for the trail map!

TOWN OF HAMDEN CONNECTICUT



Rails To Trails



FARMINGTON CANAL GREENWAY



A Little History...

In the Spring of 1828, the Farmington Canal opened for excursion boats to take passengers from New Haven as far as Northampton, Massachusetts, the end of the line. Traveling at the lazy pace of 2 1/2 miles per hour, passengers could sit on the roof of these packet boats. Along the way were taverns, inns and hotels offering food and lodging.

Named for the Farmington River, which supplied its water, the canal was 86 miles long and took three years to build. The boat trench was only 4 feet deep and measured 20 feet across the bottom and 36 feet across the top. Differences in land elevation along the canal required locks to raise or lower the water level. Twenty-eight locks were built in Connecticut to accommodate a 292 foot drop from the Massachusetts border to New Haven Harbor.

Cargo boats paid tolls based on type of goods, quantity and distances travelled, but the canal never realized any profits, and by 1848 railroad tracks were being laid along the old canal route. The Boston & Maine Railroad used it in the 1980's and when they discontinued service between New Haven and Cheshire, the Farmington Rail to Trail Association was formed to convert the canal/railroad route into a public recreational greenway.

Hamden Trail

Hamden has converted the canal/railroad path into a paved trail from Mt. Sanford Road south to Connolly Parkway, a distance of approximately 7.32 miles. Mile markers are painted on the right hand side if you are traveling south on Hamden's section of the trail. Markers are painted in various colors to assist emergency personnel in locating someone in an emergency. Trail users should be aware of these markings. Mile numbers begin in the center of Mt. Sanford Road (Cheshire/Hamden border) at 0.0 and increase going south. Hamden's trail begins



near Brooksville Park, a 206 acre nature park and wildlife sanctuary. Brooksville Park offers parking for trail users and is home to the Veterans's Memorial Building, a domestic animal zoo, playing fields, picnic areas, hiking trails, a playground and the Annual Brooksville Park Fall Festival. You can reach the park via a connector from the linear trail. Visitors can view the "Sleeping Giant", cross the



Eaton Brook Bridges and stop at Lock 14, site of the original lock-keepers house. Plans call for a restoration of the building to be used as a headquarters for a community police substation, a trail museum, and a comfort station. Along the trail visitors can enjoy the flora and fauna, and learn about the history of the canal and railroad. Walkers, runners, bicyclists and rollerbladers enjoy the trail. In the winter months, cross country skiing is available in the northern section of the canal line from Mt. Sanford Road to West Woods Road. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the trail. Hamden Police and Emergency Personnel also patrol the trail on bicycle.