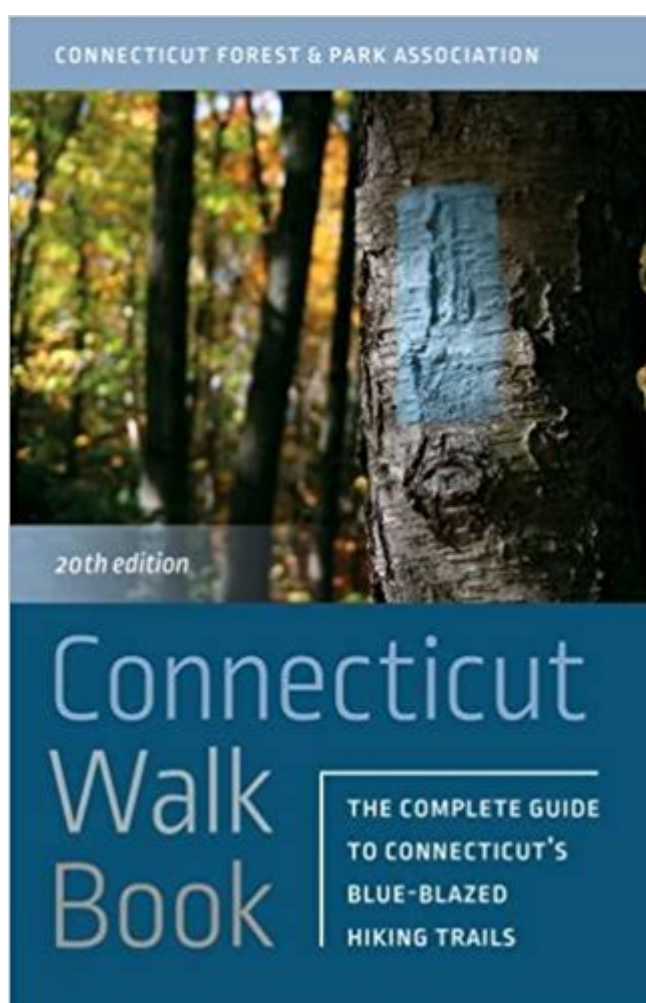


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Connecticut Walk Book: The Complete Guide To Connecticut's Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails



Synopsis

Lace up your boots and experience some of the best hiking in New England. Whether you are a day-tripper or long-distance hiker, old hand or novice, you'll find trails suited to every ability and interest. The Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) maintains over 825 miles of Blue-Blazed Trails in Connecticut, trails that wind through state parks and forests, land trusts, and across private land. The Connecticut Walk Book is a comprehensive guide to these trails, including detailed, full-color maps, mileage/destination tables, and a lay-flat design for ease of use. In this twentieth edition of the Connecticut Walk Book you will find descriptions of the hikes with maps that are clear and easy to read and follow, parking information, and trip-planning essentials that will bring you to every trail.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“There are more than 825 miles of Connecticut Forest & Park Association Blue-Blazed Trails across Connecticut. That’s 825 miles of trails you can’t get lost on if you have the Connecticut Walk Book as your guide. That’s 825 miles of trails you will never have to ask directions for. I still have my frayed and tattered copy my dad gave me so many years ago. The guide is a handy way for newcomers and old-timers alike to explore the state by making their own loop trails or out-and-back paths. Don’t go into the natural world without it.” (Peter Marteka, Hartford Courant Staff Writer/Nature Columnist) “The Connecticut Walk Book is the one essential guide for hikers. Great maps and concise, clear, accurate text give you everything you need to explore the state’s wonderful network of major trails, more than 800

miles of them. It is truly a must-have. (Steve Grant, longtime Connecticut nature writer) “Whether you aim to hike, walk, amble, jog, meander, scamper or scramble, the Connecticut Walk Book will help you set your feet on the right path. Filled with detailed descriptions and directions to the 900 miles of blue-blazed trails across the state, this 20-year anniversary edition should become a well-worn guidebook in the libraries of everyone who values time outdoors and the joy of discovering the wealth of natural riches in this small state. (Judy Benson, *The Day*)

THE CONNECTICUT FOREST & PARK ASSOCIATION (CFPA) is the first private, nonprofit, member-based organization established in Connecticut, and the founder and maintainer of over 825 miles of Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails. In 1929, CFPA’s Trails Committee proposed a radical idea – establish and maintain hundreds of miles of walking trails by a workforce of volunteers organized and trained by CFPA. Now, 90 years later, this idea is still being carried forward by volunteers, members, partners, CFPA staff, and many landowners who have joined forces over time to maintain, improve, and expand the “Blue Trails.” CFPA’s mission is to connect people to the land in order to protect forests, parks, and trails for current and future generations to enjoy.

The maps in this new edition are excellent. All the trails are published back into a single volume. However,The text description of the hike is completely removed. The general description of the hike and the trailhead information remain, but the “turn-by-turn” text is gone. I use the CT Walk Book descriptions instead of the office AT guide because the Walk Book was much better. Also, being a single bound volume, it is impossible to photocopy the pages reliably that you want to carry with you on the hike. Still, the new maps are very nice.

Connecticut may be a small state, but it makes the most of itself. The Connecticut Forest & Park Association maintains over 800 miles of blue-blazed trails around the state, and this guide is your ticket for exploring the whole of it. The book contains maps, brief trail descriptions, mileage guides, and some interesting photographs designed to whet the appetite of the aspiring walker, hiker or trail runner. As a previous reviewer has rightly noted, the bound nature of the book makes it a little to use maps that cross pages. Other than that, it seems pretty useful. Recommended!

I own a copy of the previous edition of the Walk Book for the western part of CT. When I saw that a new edition for the entire state had been published, I decided to pre-order it. There are definitely

pros and cons to the new edition. First, the book is aesthetically pleasing (silly, but it makes me happy). The new edition has color maps that show side trails in the correct blaze colors. I am also happy that all the trails and maps are contained in one book AND the contour interval is noted on the map! This was one of my largest pet peeves of the previous edition. However, I do wish more elevations were shown, not just the elevation of select peaks. There are maps with absolutely no indication of elevation, though you can at least figure out elevation change based upon contour intervals. The previous editions of this book were made of loose leaf pages with maps that folded out. The new book is a regular bound book and, though the description on the back of the book says it has a "lay-flat design", it really doesn't. Making copies of the maps to take with you will not be as easy and some details may be lost in the gutter (where two pages meet). In the very front of the book, there is a fold-out map of the entire state, which identifies where each trail is located. In order to put all the blue-blazed trails in one book (instead of two as in previous editions which had East and West books), something had to give. One thing that was given up, and I am not sure it is that big a deal, is that some of the maps in the previous edition have been combined. For example, in the new edition the northern end of the Tunxis Trail, from Pine Mountain to the Massachusetts state line, is one map. In the previous edition it was spread over two maps. The more significant omission is the elimination of detailed trail descriptions. For example, the new edition has one paragraph devoted to the northern end of the Tunxis Trail from the Indian Council Caves north. In the old edition, the description for that section of trail spans more than two pages. This is where I think using the previous edition in combination with the new edition would be useful. One minor complaint I have is that I wish the separate maps for a given trail were put in order from north to south, rather than south to north. If arranged north to south, the trail would flow as you turned from one page to the next. This was also a complaint I had with the previous edition and is not a change that was made for the new edition. Overall, I like the look of the new book and I think that it is better suited for flipping through and locating hikes and trails. I also think the maps are nicer, though there is still room for improvement. If I did not have the previous edition for comparison, I think I would rate it five stars. But, knowing what is missing (detailed trail descriptions), I can only give it four.

This book is a must-have for any CT hiker. The full color maps are wonderful and the new symbol indicating other connecting trails systems is extremely helpful for planning. The longer descriptions in the last edition were a little overkill for me so I like the shortened descriptions. If I want to learn more about a particular trail, I can always visit CFPA's webpage with additional trail info. Also, the

lay-flat binding works great, but you have to know how to use it. The binding has to be pulled out to get the pages to lay flat (see attached picture). Once I did this I could photo copy maps that crossed pages and did not lose anything in the gutter. This book is wonderful to use in conjunction with CFPA's interactive map on their website. The online map shows parking areas, which makes it easy to get directions to any trail. Additionally, it is constantly updated with trail notices that include temporary closures and re-routes so be sure to check the section you plan to hike before heading out. I think there is also an e-book so I can download it for easy reading in the field. All in all this book was well-crafted and has quickly become a staple in my house for planning our hiking adventures!

Just wish they included a WEB link to download the maps so you don't have to carry the whole book while on a day hike!

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