Posted in Rhode Island | Hiking, Nature | October 20, 2016 by Catherine Armstrong

Most People Will Never See This Pretty Pond Hiding In Rhode Island

There's no better way to spend an afternoon than hiking one of Rhode Island's beautiful trails. A little hidden gem in Hopkinton, Rhode Island, is the Long Pond Rhode Wildlife Refuge. It's not well-known or available for all hikers, there's a trail that leads to a pretty pond, but many will never see it because it is so difficult.

You'll find Long Pond Rhode Wildlife Refuge on North Road, in Hopkinton. The refuge covers 220 acres, and features just one trail.

Click here to see the trail map.

The trail is a 2 miles out and back, and you'll want to allow around an hour each way.

Because of its steep terrain, the Audubon Society considers the Long Pond Rhode Trail difficult.

Craig Dassow/Flickr

You'll experience elevation changes of 428 feet during this hike. In one spot, a set of steep stairs helps you climb the side of the hill...

Craig Dassow/Flickr

...but in another spot, you'll have to scramble over large boulders to reach the top. You'll want to wear a good pair of hiking boots for this trail!

Craig Dassow/Flickr

The scenery might distract you from the challenge - you'll see pretty hemlock trees, interesting rock formations, and many animals and birds if you pay attention.

Sandy Hoover/Flickr

At the top of the trail, you'll be rewarded for all your hard work with stunning views of Long Pond. Enjoy a snack or lunch with a water view before carefully making your way back down the trail to where you started.

Sandy Hoover/Flickr

Have you hiked this tricky trail? We'd love to hear about your adventure!

Looking for an easy trail that takes you through an enchanting forest? Check out this one!

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Catherine Armstrong
Writer, editor and researcher with a passion for exploring new places. Catherine loves local restaurants, hiking, photography, and spending time with family. Hiking, crocheting, and the great outdoors. Who is in the adventure?

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Posted in Rhode Island | Hiking, Nature | March 20, 2016 by Natalie Crouse

This Forest Hike In Rhode Island Leads To An Unexpectedly Amazing Overlook

Do you like waterfalls? How about hiking? If you do, this trail in Rhode Island is the perfect outing for you. The Tillinghast Pond Preserve is a 220-acre property that is managed by the Audubon Society for outdoor adventure. Enjoy the quiet of the forest as you head toward the big pond! — an overlook that has picture-perfect views.

ES Pond Preserve and Long Pond Rhode Refuge are two beautiful adjoining properties owned by the Nature Conservancy and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island. The woodland forest full of rhododendron and mountain laurel seems like a lush jungle during the warmer months.

Google Street View/Flickr

The 2-mile trail is not the easiest. Lace up your hiking boots and prepare to get moving. The challenging terrain can become rocky and steep but we promise the end view is worth every step.

Google Street View/Flickr

Take time to lose yourself in this quietly beautiful surroundings. Encounter native plants and wildlife along the way. This hike isn't completely about the end prize.

Google Street View/Flickr

The path to the overlook takes you to the top of the rocky granite cliffs. You won't realize how far and high you've hiked until you reach the edge.

Google Street View/Flickr

Take in the gorgeous water views. The pond overlook is serene and simply stunning. The rocky outcropping is a fine place to relax and enjoy the sights or a well-deserved picnic.

Google Street View/Flickr

The ES Pond and Long Pond Preserves are open sunrise to sunset every day. To reach the trailhead, you can park in the small designated lot on right alongside Old Nooseneck Road.

For this amazing hike, the address for your GPS is 440 Old Nooseneck Rd, Hopkinton, RI 02833. You can download a trail map here.

Have you ever hiked to the unbelievable overlook? If you're looking for an easier trail where you can still take in the sights, take this hike to an observation tower for some fantastic bay scenery.

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