

Hurricane Forest Wildlife Refuge Park Pond Loop

0.2 mile loop

Easy

This walk around the Wright Reservoir in Hurricane Town Forest is flat, well maintained and very easy. There is only one short hill. It starts at the Hurricane Town Forest trailhead and is well marked with signs, and blue blazes in some places. It is a beautiful walk and there are many extension options (see below). Be cautious on the wooden bridge over the creek, which may be slippery when wet. If you keep the reservoir on your left, then you can follow the pond loop by staying left at any trail junction. In addition to signs, many of the sections of the trail have blue blazes on the trees. This park is open from sunrise to 9:00 pm, but there are no restroom facilities. The majestic birds that sometimes fly above the pond and the orange salamanders make this trail a lively and wonderful place to walk!

Directions: Travel South on Route 5 from White River Junction past the VA Hospital. Take an immediate right after the I-89 underpass onto Wright Reservoir Road. The refuge will be on the left hand side of this road.

Parking: Public parking is available at the pullover just a few feet before the refuge entrance on Wright Reservoir Road.

Uses: Trail is open to foot traffic and cross-country skiing. Pets are permitted, but you must clean up after them.

Route Extension: If you want to venture farther, there are several options available. The Monument Trail is a 0.3 mile trail that veers off of the pond loop. It leads up a hill to the Hurricane Town Forest Monument before connecting to the 0.4 mile Creek Trail that leads back down to the pond loop. Both of these trails are **moderate** as they are narrower and have a few more climbs than the Pond Loop. The 0.8 mile long Beacon Hill Loop branches off of the Creek Trail if you want to extend your walk even more. All of these additional trails are beautiful and you should eventually try to enjoy them all!

Ownership/Maintenance: The Hurricane Forest Wildlife Refuge Park is owned, managed, and maintained by the Town of Hartford, VT. The trails and picnic sites were constructed by the Hartford boy Scouts and the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps.

