Town of Vernon Multi-use Greenways Valley Falls Park Trails

<u>Location</u> 300 Valley Falls Road, Vernon, CT

Trail Surfaces

Uneven terrain through woods. Flat in fields - along brook - on Rail Trail.

Map provided by Vernon Greenways Volunteers, Inc. www.vernongreenways.org

Report trail problems or vandalism to

parksandrec@vernon-ct.gov

VALLEY FALLS LOOP TRAIL Blue/Yellow Blazes 3.8-mile loop Counter-Clockwise

MILES DESCRIPTION

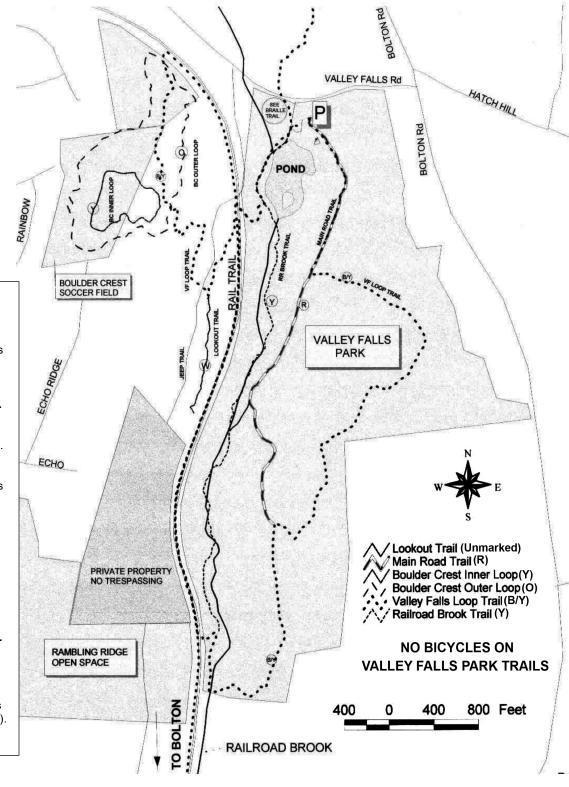
- 0.0 Start in parking lot. Keep pond on left. Cross bridges over 3 spillways.
- 0.3 Climb stairs. Look for uphill trail just before the bench. Turn right. Climb stairs leading to Rail Trail Hop River State Park. Turn right. Proceed along the Rail Trail. Look carefully on left for Blue/Yellow blazed birch tree on left. This is easy to miss, so look carefully.

Entrance to trail is after red-blazed tree # 8 but not as far as red-blazed tree # 7.

- 0.5 Left turn into woods, crossing over a small culvert. Climb hill.
- 0.7 Right turn short climb up hill. Then turn left just before crest of hill and the Boulder Crest soccer fields. Stay in the woods. Scramble up ledge surfaces. Pass Orange blazed Boulder Crest Outer Loop Trail on left. Turn right to stay on Blue/Yellow blazed trail. Steep descent to brook.
- 1.0 At bottom of valley, cross a seasonal brook. Proceed straight until trail makes sharp right turn. Trail now goes uphill.
- 1.1 Cross **Jeep Trail**. A little further up the trail the trail turns sharply to the left.
 - Lookout Trail (unmarked) leaves trail on the right. Trail is a dead end.
- 1.2 Turn right onto **Rail Trail**. Continue for 0.7 miles.
 - Left turn onto Rail Trail shortens hike. On right look for bike rack, then Blue/Yellow blazed trail with steps leading downhill. At bottom of steps turn left and continue to parking lot.
- Look for Blue/Yellow blazes on left. This blaze can be easy to miss.
 Turn left, proceeding downhill.
 - Continuing along Rail Trail will lead to Bolton Notch.

Right turn at base of hill continues the Valley Falls Loop Trail. Stay on this trail.

- On left is Yellow blazed Railroad Brook Trail.
- 2.2 Left turn crosses bridge over Railroad Brook.
- 2.6 At junction with Red blazed Main Road Trail turn right following Blue/Yellow blazes. Trail continues uphill and downhill for 0.9 miles.
- 3.5 Turn right onto Red blazed Main Road Trail. Continue straight through fields and wooded area, passing exercise station (right) and pond and pavilion (left).
- 3.8 Return to parking lot.



MAIN ROAD TRAIL Red Blazes

Beginning of trail shares Blue/Yellow Blazes 1.6 miles Roundtrip

MILES DESCRIPTION

- 0.0 Start in parking lot. Go left passing pond and pavilion (right) and exercise station (left). Follow road through wooded area to fields.
- 0.2 Continue straight at fork, passing a bench on right. Cross a small bridge.
 - Pond Loop Trail leaves fork at right.
- 0.3 Enter woods.
 - Blue/Yellow blazed Valley Falls Loop Trail leaves on left.
 Continue straight until reaching a bridge.
- 0.5 Cross bridge and bear left.
 - Unmarked trail on right after crossing bridge leads to Railroad Brook Trail.
- 0.5+ Bear left at fork to continue on Red blazed Main Road Trail.
 - Unmarked trail on right leads to Railroad Brook Trail.
 Cross a small stream along the way before reaching junction.
- 0.8 Trail ends at junction with Blue/Yellow blazed Valley Falls Loop Trail.

 Reverse direction for roundtrip mileage.

OPTIONS to extend hike:

- # 1 Turn left onto Blue/Yellow blazed trail for 0.9 miles of uphill and downhill terrain. Right turn rejoins Main Road Trail. Proceed to parking lot.

 Additional 1.2 miles
- # 2 Bear right. Continue on Blue/Yellow blazed trail. Cross Railroad Brook. Yellow blazes will mark the Railroad Brook Trail at the 1-mile mark. Continuing on Yellow blazed trail will lead to parking lot.

POND LOOP TRAIL Orange Blazes

0.6-mile loop Counter-Clockwise

Trail is not illustrated on map.

MILES DESCRIPTION

- 0.0 Start in parking lot. Proceed right passing pond on left. Cross over 3 spillways.
- 0.1 Climb stairs. Pass Blue/Yellow blazed trail on right leading uphill to Rail Trail Hop River State Park and Valley Falls Loop Trail.
 Go down a 2nd set of stairs.
- 0.2 Cross bridge. Left turn after crossing bridge.
 - Yellow blazed Railroad Brook Trail leaves right.
- 0.3 Go straight at intersection.

Additional 1.4 miles

- Left turn leads to Valley Falls Pond.
- Look for bench on right. Turn left to join Red blazed Main Road Trail.
 Continue into wooded area. Pass exercise station on right and pond on left.
- 0.6 Parking lot is straight ahead.

BOULDER CREST SOCCER FIELD TRAILS

Yellow and Orange Blazes 2 Loops 0.4 – 0.9 mile

Parking at the end of Boulder Crest Lane, Vernon Counter-clockwise Description

Inner Loop Yellow Blazes: 0.4 miles

· Access trail on far side of soccer field.

Outer Loop Orange Blazes; 0.9 miles

 Access trail after 0.5-mile and before 1-mile markers of the Blue/Yellow blazed Valley Falls Loop Trail.

LOOKOUT TRAIL Unmarked

1.5 miles Roundtrip (approximate)

Start in parking lot. Proceed right. Keep pond on left. Cross bridges over 3 spillways. Climb stairs. Look for another set of stairs on the right marked with Blue/Yellow blazes. Turn right. Go uphill turning left at top of stairs. A few feet ahead and before the 16-mile marker (on left), turn right onto Blue/Yellow blazed trail leading uphill into the woods. When the Blue/Yellow blazed trail takes a sharp right, continue straight onto this unmarked trail, following along the ledges and views of **Valley Falls Park** and the **Rail Trail**. Trail is a dead end.

Reverse direction for roundtrip mileage.

RAILROAD BROOK TRAIL

Yellow Blazes
2 miles Roundtrip

MILES DESCRIPTION

- 0.0 Start in parking lot. Pass pond on left. Cross bridges over 3 spillways.
- O.1 Climb stairs. Pass Blue/Yellow blazed trail on right leading uphill to Rail Trail Hop River State Park and Valley Falls Loop Trail. A few yards more down trail descend stairs.
- 0.2 Cross bridge. Go straight keeping brook on right.
 - Orange blazed **Pond Loop Trail** turns left

Keep brook on right. Cross several foot bridges.

- 0.5 Cross bridge over small stream.
 - Unmarked trail on left leads to Red blazed Main Road Trail.
- 0.8 Cross bridge. Brook is now on left.
- 1.0 Trail ends at Blue/Yellow blazed Valley Falls Loop Trail.

Reverse direction for roundtrip mileage. OR OPTIONS to extend hike:

1

Bear right, then uphill on Blue/Yellow blazed trail to Rail Trail – Hop River State Park. Turn right onto Rail Trail. About 1 mile down trail look for Blue/Yellow blazes (near bike rack) and turn right to descend stairs. Turn left at end of stairs. Proceed to parking lot. Additional 1.1 miles

2

Proceed straight ahead following Blue/Yellow blazed Valley Falls Loop Trail for 0.4 miles to Red blazed Main Road Trail. Turn right onto Blue/Yellow blazed Valley Falls Loop Trail. Hike for 0.9 miles on uphill and downhill terrain to rejoin the Red blazed Main Road Trail. Turn right. Walk through fields and into wooded area. Pass exercise station on right and pond and pavilion on left to return to parking lot.

Additional 1.6 miles

ACCESS to OTHER TRAILS

Rail Trail Access:

On Valley Falls Loop Trail

At 0.3 mile

At 1.2 miles

On Railroad Brook Trail

At 0.1 mile

At 1.0 mile Option # 1

On Pond Loop Trail

At 0.1 mile

Railroad Brook Trail Access:

On Pond Loop Trail

At 0.2 mile

On Main Road Trail

At 0.5 mile

At 0.5+ mile

At 0.8 mile Option # 2

On Valley Falls Loop Trail

At 1.9 mile bottom of hill

Pond Loop Trail Access:

On Railroad Brook Trail

At 0.2 mile

On Main Road Trail

At 0.2 mile

Main Road Trail Access:

On Railroad Brook Trail

At 0.5 mile

At 1.0 mile Option # 2

Valley Falls Loop Trail Access:

On Railroad Brook Trail

At 0.1 mile

At 1.0 mile Option # 2

On Pond Loop Trail

At 0.1 mile

On Main Road Trail

At 0.8 mile Options # 1 & # 2

Lookout Trail Access:

On Valley Falls Loop Trail

At 1.1 mile

Boulder Crest Trails Access:

On Valley Falls Loop

At 0.7 mile