

Quinnipiac River Gorge Trail

The 1.3 mile paved, multi-use Quinnipiac Gorge Trail was completed in 2006 and sits on the rail bed of the Meriden, Waterbury, & Connecticut River Railroad (circa 1890). The trail starts at Lions Club Park - distinguished by two grand granite columns. The trail follows the rail bed westward along the Gorge with several scenic viewing areas of the Quinnipiac River and informational kiosks. Portions of the trail which are steep and susceptible to rock slides are noted by split rail fencing and signage.

Water power spurred industry along the river including the Meriden Gorge Carpenter's Dam, which powered a civil war button factory. The dams formed impounded lakes like Hanover Pond and Wallingford's Community Lake.

Near Hanover Pond, the "Red Bridge" connected Oregon Road to Cheshire and provided access to recreation at the Pond. The Quinnipiac River and the Gorge area is making a strong recovery from its industrial legacy through habitat and river restoration efforts of the City of Meriden and the Inland Fisheries Division. Their work includes two rock vanes which create thermal refuge for trout during hot summer months when the river temperature rises above optimum temperatures for their survival.



Photo by the City of Meriden

Trail Description:

Easy Walk

The Gorge Trail offers beautiful views of the Quinnipiac River alongside many historical sites. Bring comfortable walking shoes, bicycles, roller blades strollers or wheelchairs.

Total trail distance is approx. 1.29 miles

Directions and Parking:

The Quinnipiac River Gorge Trail can be accessed directly off of River Road (State Route 70). Handicap Accessible parking areas are available on Oregon Road at the Red Bridge. General Parking is located at the Dossin Beach parking areas adjacent to Hanover Pond. Additional parking is available in a gravel lot on Finch Avenue at the Cheshire Town line.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

The multi-use trail is fully handicap accessible. Hiking and canoeing is permitted. This part of the Quinnipiac Gorge is stocked with fish. Fishing is allowed by State license. Motorized vehicles are prohibited.



Photo by the City of Meriden

Total Trails Length: Approx. 1.29 miles

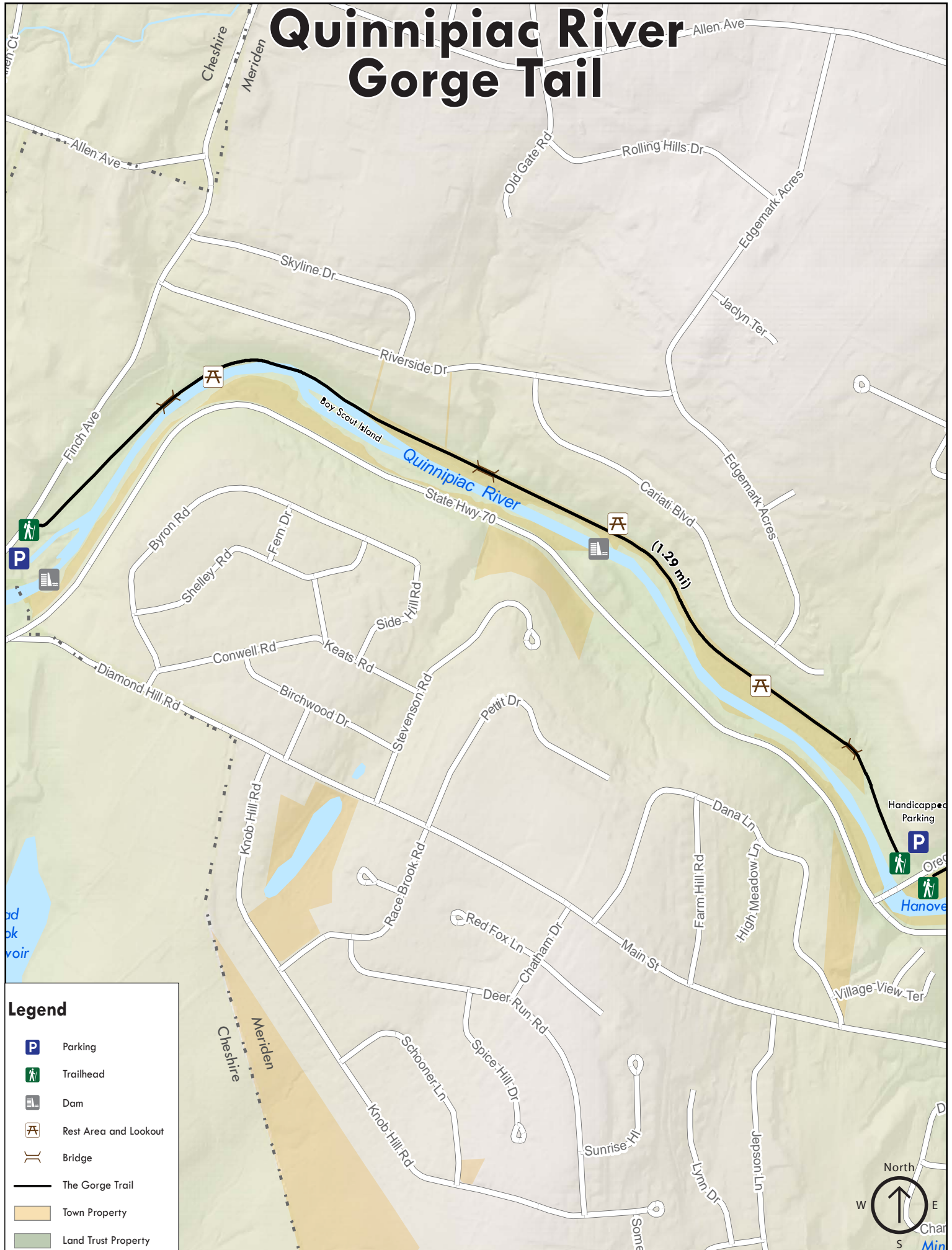


For more information about this location, contact:

Town of Meriden
Recreation Program Supervisor
(203) 630-4259



Quinnipiac River Gorge Trail



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- Dam
- Rest Area and Lookout
- Bridge
- The Gorge Trail
- Town Property
- Land Trust Property

