

Kent Land Trust 2019 Exploration Challenge Guide

Find photo-worthy *Things* that exemplify Kent's beauty and rural character. The Places (1-19) are shown on your [Kent Hiking Trails](#) map. For more detailed information, including individual preserve maps and descriptions, consult [Kent Trails: A Hiker's Guide](#), produced by the Kent Conservation Commission.

- 1. Bull's Bridge Scenic Area** FirstLight Power Resources and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Terrain: Moderate. An easy start, with various ups and downs and rooty stretches later on. About 2 miles total.
You seek a *Housatonic overlook* from on deck and a *Ten Mile footbridge* about 100 feet long. If you have to "go", cross into New Milford to find a *WC*.
- 2. Appalachian Trail** Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Terrain: Variable. The routes below are out-and-backs over moderate to challenging terrain.
From Skiff Mountain Road: Drive north, pass the AT crossing, and then park at right on the second paved pulloff. Hike SE, mostly along a Pond Mountain Trust trail to reach the AT at *Caleb's Peak*. Moderate. About 1.25 miles total.
From Route 341: Begin your quest in *stile*, cross the meadow, then climb mostly NE for about 0.5 mile. Turn right on a pink-flagged trail to find a massive *erratic boulder*. Moderate to Challenging. About 2 miles total.
From Schaghticoke Road (south end near Bull's Bridge): Hike mostly west (and up!) passing many a white blaze to reach a *Housatonic Valley view* at about 1,100 feet elevation. A challenging climb! About 3 miles total.
- 3. Currie Sanctuary** Kent Land Trust
Terrain: Challenging. A steady climb of about a mile from base to top of the Sanctuary.
I spy ... *old pasture walls* along Ashton's loop, a *comfy overlook* (pick one of two), and, here and there, *hophornbeams*.
- 4. Macedonia Brook State Park** Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
Terrain: Easy - if you start at the Ranger Station and follow Macedonia Brook Rd north for a short distance to find ...
... a *lengthy CCC work*, a *Macedonia Brook view* (you choose), and a *picturesque pavilion*.
- 5. Cobble Mountain** Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust
Terrain: Challenging! Direct access is via a steep, rocky section of the White Trail in Macedonia Brook State Park. About 2.5 miles round trip from Ranger Station.
Find a *majestic three-state view* and plenty of *exposed bedrock*.
- 6. Pond Mountain Natural Area** Pond Mountain Trust
Terrain: Moderate. Distances will vary based on your route.
Oh to hike on ... Pond Mountain, to the summit for the *westward view*. Find an *old cabin* 'neath Pond Mountain, and frame a *pond view* before leaving here too soon.
- 7. Skiff Mountain South Preserve** Kent Land Trust
Note: The Marvelwood School conducts ornithological research here. Tread lightly, avoiding piping, poles, mist nets, and flagging.
Terrain: Easy. Walk over mostly level, even ground. About 1.75 miles out and back.
Perambulate around the pond and then peruse the Purple Path. Picture yourself with *Woodrow*, *the wood duck*, and *Julian*, *the Cerulean warbler*, and also portray a *wetland view*.
- 8. Robert Avian Preserve** Kent Land Trust **Road closed until further notice!!**
Note: Proceed with caution turning from Route 7 onto North Kent Road. The road to parking is very rough.
Terrain: Easy. A very short, level outing.
No formal trails here, but it's OK to venture in to capture a *meadow view* and pose with an *eastern red cedar*.

9. **Kent Falls State Park** CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Terrain: Moderate. Many stairs on the south side of the stream and some steep slopes on the north side. Distances will vary depending on route.
Shoot a *waterfall* (there are 17 from which to choose). Rock hounds might notice deposits of *Connecticut's state mineral*. Also seek an impressive *CCC stone embankment* supporting part of the upper Yellow Trail.
10. **Audrey and Robert Tobin Preserve** Kent Land Trust
Terrain: Moderate. Distances will vary depending on how many trails you explore.
Follow the meadow trail to find a *place where two streams meet* and later a *copse of birches*. Press on to find a *mighty Cornwall stone wall*. Can you find *Hamamelis virginiana* along the Homestead Trail or the Laurel Loop?
11. **East Kent Hamlet Nature Preserve** Kent Land Trust
Terrain: Easy/Moderate. Mostly easy, with a short stretch of steep terrain on the Falls Trail. About 2 miles total.
Herein find a *West Aspetuck cascade*, a row of *ancient hydrangeas*, and the *Camp Francis Gate*.
12. **Kent Mountain Preserve** Kent Land Trust
Terrain: Challenging. The out-and-back (about 1.5 miles) includes steep slopes, some very rocky. If hiking through to Cobble Brook Vista (#13) and returning along part of the paved Studio Hill Circle, plan for a 3-mile excursion.
As you ascend the rocky slopes, look for *Quercus montana*. On the upper level, seek a long-ago engraved *Fagus grandifolia*. Descend again to view side-by-side *charcoal mounds*. Here endeth the Kent Mountain Preserve.
13. **Cobble Brook Vista Preserve** Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust
Terrain: Easy. The *Things* you seek are found on the lower part of the trail, near Cobble Brook. About 0.5 miles total.
Bring a botanist or some guide books. The sandy soil and sunlight here support *Monarda* flowers (seasonal) and *diverse meadow habitat*. You may find red-helmeted *Cladonia cristatella* or *other lichens* patrolling trees in this area.
14. **Emery Park** Town of Kent, maintained by Kent Park and Recreation
Terrain: Moderate/Challenging. The climb to the peak is steady and steep. About 1.25 miles total.
Surmount Segar Mountain (at 1,144 feet) and *send proof*, recording a fine example of *Quercus alba* along the way. While you're at the park, might as while take a *ride on the slide!*
15. **Iron Mountain Preserve** The Nature Conservancy
Terrain: Moderate. Includes some wet areas and some brief steep sections. About 2 miles total.
Take a pic at the *Nature Conservancy sign*, then hit the trail. Pause for a *footbridge photo* whilst crossing an Irving Pond tributary. About half way 'round the lollypop loop, strike a pose in a *shady hemlock grove*.
16. **Alice M. McCallister Memorial Sanctuary** Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust
Terrain: Easy. Mostly flat footwork and very modest slopes. About 1 mile out and back along the lower trail.
Discover wetland wonders like *Symplocarpus foetidus*, look for *beaver evidence*, and capture a captivating *wetland view*.
17. **Claire Murphy River Walk** Kent Land Trust
Terrain: Easy. A gentle stroll on level ground. Less than half a mile out and back.
Frame the *KLT barn logo*, depict part of the new *StoryWalk*, and show a patch of *Equisetum*.
18. **Bull Mountain Preserve** Kent Land Trust
Terrain: Moderate. A steady, mostly smooth climb, leveling out near trail's end. About 2 miles round trip.
Find for me these items three, ere the Challenge end ye see: *erratic twins*, *St. Patrick's Chair* (the Kent version), and a *Womenshenuk Valley view*.
19. **West Aspetuck Scenic Wetlands Preserve** Kent Land Trust
Terrain: Easy. A mostly shady walk with modest inclines. Call it a Challenge cool-down. About 0.75 mile total.
Note: The trail here will not be accessible until approximately July 15, 2019. Please wait to explore until then!
Locate *lodging*, but don't stay over. Also notice *Acer pensylvanicum* and a *balanced rock*.