

# 2026 Monthly Land Trust Trail Hikes

*“Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt.” Muir*

The Bethany Land Trust is thrilled to invite you to join us for a series of monthly guided hikes in 2026, our third year of sponsoring hikes. If you've ever wanted to walk on hiking trails in Bethany and are not sure where to start or if you enjoy sharing your favorite trails in town, these hikes are for you. This year, we'll walk both Land Trust preserves as well as town and state properties highlighting the unique features that make these open spaces very special places in town.



## **Welcome Spring April Hike**

**Sunday April 12, 1-3 PM**

We're back on the trails after a long winter! Join us for the second hike of 2026! We will be doing a loop hike of about 2 miles that begins in the Van Epps Preserve and then into the abutting Naugatuck State Forest along the Blue Trail on the ridge before returning to Van Epps.

## **Blue Loop Trail Hike**

**Sunday May 3, 1-4 PM**

After a couple of years of planning, the Land Trust has opened two brand-new loop hiking trails designed to connect a variety of preserves and open spaces across Bethany and neighboring towns. The 4.4-mile Blue Loop Trail, located in the southern part of town connects the Bethany Farms parcels with several others. Complete this hike and you're halfway to the Loop Hike Hall of Fame.

## **USA 250<sup>th</sup> History Hike**

**Sunday June 14, 10 AM – 12 Noon**

We will be celebrating the United States 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a history hike in the Three Sisters Preserve with Will Brinton, Bethany Town Historian as our guide. The land of the Three Sisters Preserve and surrounding area has some remarkable historical significance for both indigenous people and those who followed.

Co-sponsored with Bethany Historical Society

## **Learn About Wetlands Hike**

**Sunday July 26, 1-3 PM**

With Ali Beres-Nork as our guide, we will be walking around the wetlands found in the Hidden Brook Preserve, offering a unique look at some of the most biologically productive ecosystems in the world.

## **Bethany Bog Hike**

**Sunday August 16, 1-3 PM**

Hike with us up to the Bethany Bog in the woods above Veterans Memorial Park. As a sphagnum-dominated wetland and nature reserve, the bog is recognized as a critical local ecological site and has been the subject of historic botanical research.

## **Family Scavenger Hunt Hike**

**Sunday September 13, 1-3 PM**

A scavenger hunt in the woods of the Van Epps Preserve will be a fantastic way to turn a simple hike into an engaging adventure for kids. We will be using a scavenger hunt sheet to help encourage observation and sensory exploration of the natural world.

## **Native American Ceremonial Stone Structures Hike**

**Sunday October 11, 1-3 PM**

We have a small portal into the world of indigenous peoples who lived here for thousands of years in the ceremonial stone structures that still exist and have been identified in Bethany. Join us for a walk in Whispering Pines to learn more about these historical structures

## **November Super Moon Evening Hike**

**Sunday November 22, 6-8 PM**

Enjoy this moonlit, evening walk in Van Epps just days before the November super moon.

- **Details for registration, directions and parking for each hike will be posted on the Land Trust website, Facebook page, Newsletter and listed in the Bethany Bulletin.**
- **All welcome; space limited to 25 unless noted**
- **Keep your pets at home.**
- **Inclement weather cancels.**
- **For more information and registration please contact Bob Harrison via cell 203-506-5888 or by email at [bjh51box@gmail.com](mailto:bjh51box@gmail.com).**

