

HISTORY OF THE GRAND TRUNK

The Grand Trunk Railway (GT) was a Canadian-based railway system headquartered in Montreal, Quebec which ran from the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec to Michigan and various states in the New England Region. In 1910, the Grand Trunk Railway chartered and began construction on a new railroad named the Southern New England Railway to connect the GT-owned Central Vermont Railroad to the Port of Providence, Rhode Island. This connection would have given the Grand Trunk Railway direct access to a convenient all-weather, deep water port. Providence harbor was highly favored over the Central Vermont's limited Port facilities in New London, CT.

Construction was impeded after Charles M. Hays, the President of the Grand Trunk Railway and leading supporter of the newly chartered Southern New England Railway, perished at sea in the sinking of the RMS Titanic. Despite the efforts of local businessmen and politicians throughout the 1920s and early 1930s, work on the Southern New England Railway never resumed in Rhode Island. Construction in Massachusetts continued until the grading was completed and most bridge abutments were finished.

Luckily, the effort put into clearing and grading the rail bed has not gone to waste. In the late- 1990s, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Rangers along with a group of volunteers began converting the railway and its parallel trolley bed into a rail trail

Thanks to their efforts along with the help of the Brimfield and Holland Trail Committees who have all worked to bring life back to these abandoned Rail beds.

LAKE SIOG PASS

A trail connecting Lake Siog (Holland Pond) to the Grand Trunk trail can also be explored. This 1.5 mile trail utilizes old road beds and passes by "Curtis Island" an old Native American meeting site, with expansive views of open wetlands.

Remember that hiking carries some risk as you are in an outdoor uncontrolled environment. Always be observant of your surroundings, and the weather. Please report anything you feel is an unsafe condition.

For assistance, information, or to inquire about volunteer opportunities please write or call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers East Brimfield Lake office.

24 Riverview Ave.

Fiskdale (Sturbridge), MA, 01518.

Tel: (508) 347-3705.

Or visit our web site:

<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreati/eblhome>

How long are the trails?

The Grand Trunk Trail from the Rt. 20 trailhead parking lot to the Quinebaug River intersection is approximately 2.8 miles. Users can also enjoy 2 miles of accessible side loop trails for a total of 5 miles

The Lake Siog pass, a trail linking Lake Siog to the Grand Trunk Trail is 1.5 miles, (Shown in Red on the map)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When can I visit the trail?

The trail is open daily, year-round, from sunrise to sunset.

Can I camp along the trail?

Overnight camping is prohibited on project lands.

Are there trash barrels along the trail?

No, the Corps has a carry in/carry out trash policy. Remember to take only photographs, and leave only footprints.

Can I bring my dog on the trail?

Yes, but it must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet. Please pick up after your dog.

Are bicycles allowed?

Yes. Cyclists must be courteous and yield to hikers. All cyclists should wear helmets at all times.

Are off-road vehicles allowed?

No, the use of off road vehicles is prohibited along the trail and on all project lands.

Are horses allowed?

Yes, horses are allowed, however we ask that riders clean up after their horses and remove droppings from the trail.

All Trail users should show courtesy to other trail users, please clean up after your animals, ride with caution and respect for others.

OTHER RULES APPLICABLE TO THE USE OF THE AREA ARE CONTAINED IN TITLE 36, U.S. CODE, COPIES OF WHICH ARE POSTED. EXTRA COPIES ARE AVAILABLE.

PLEASE OBSERVE ALL POSTED SIGNS.

TRAIL GUIDE East Brimfield Lake

Grand Trunk Trail - Brimfield

Lake Siog Pass - Holland

Portions of the Titanic Rail Trail System

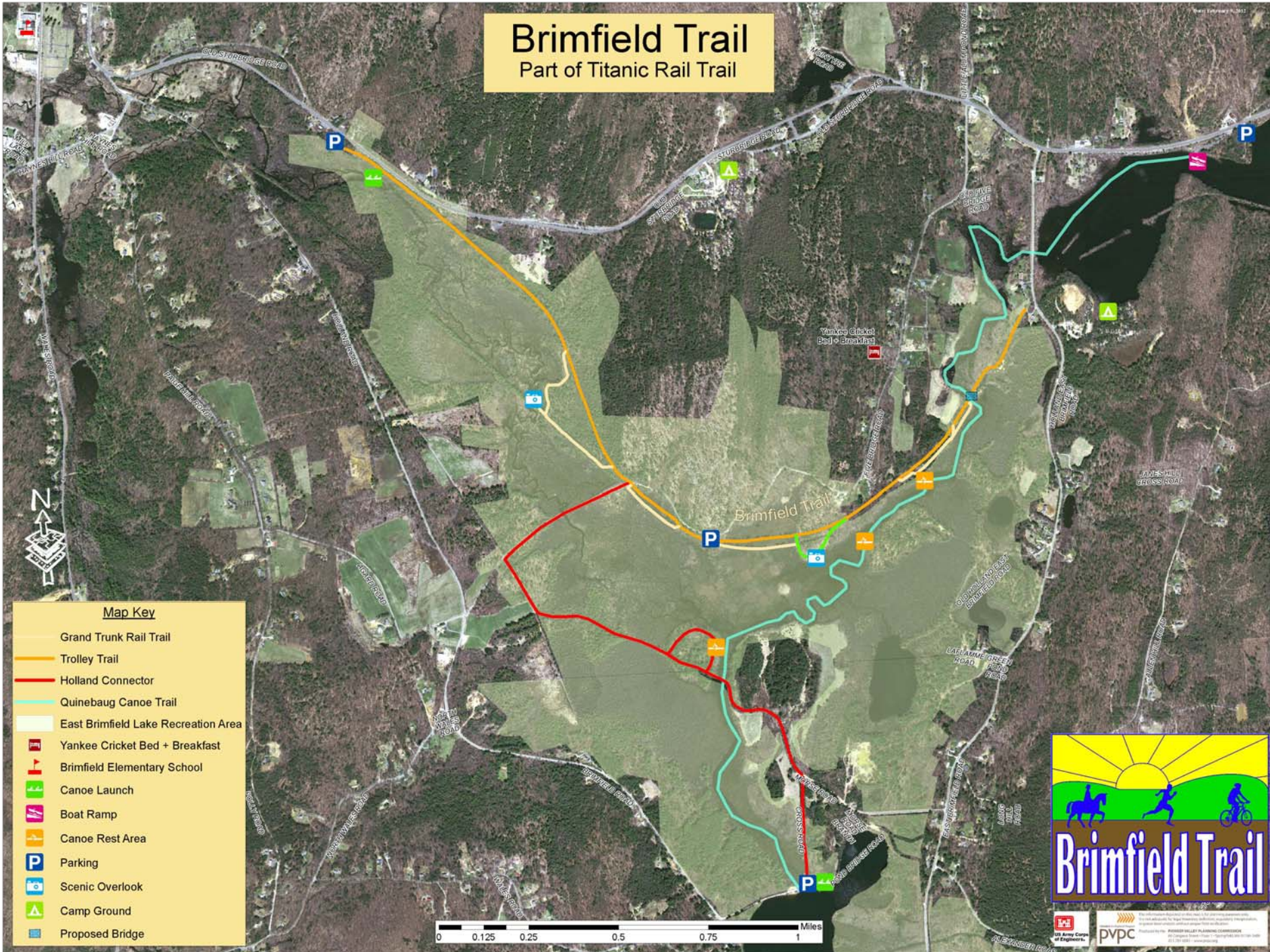


US Army Corps
of Engineers



Brimfield Trail

Part of Titanic Rail Trail



HIKING TIPS

Hike with at least one other person and make sure someone else knows where you're going and how long you plan to hike.

Water levels along the trail vary due to flood control operations. Use caution in unfamiliar conditions.

Make sure to wear proper clothing depending on the weather conditions and layer accordingly.

Remember to pack light while making sure to bring along the essentials like water, sunscreen, and a first aid kit.

For more information on trail safety, contact the East Brimfield Lake project office. See reverse side for contact information.

