

# Shenipsit Trail

The Shenipsit Trail traverses the Glastonbury highlands through parts of Meshomasic State Forest, Town of Manchester watershed lands, Kongscut Land Trust preserves and private properties. This section of the trail leads from Great Hill in the Cobalt section of East Hampton to Case Mountain in Manchester (a distance of about 18 miles) and beyond. It is part of the 700-mile Blue Blaze Hiking Trail System maintained by volunteers of the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association. An excellent guide to the entire system entitled Connecticut Walk Book, is available from bookstores or Connecticut Forest and Park Association, Middlefield, 16 Meriden Road, Rockfall Ct. 06481, Tel. (860) 346-2372.

The Shenipsit Trail is moderately difficult in places and is intended for hikers rather than strollers.

**A. DICKINSON-ZEKE ROAD:** Park near the end of the paved section of Dickinson Road. Follow Dickinson then Zeke Roads (white blazes) three quarters of a mile through part of Meshomasic State Forest to the junction with the Shenipsit Trail (blue blaze). Dickinson and Zeke roads were once an alternative route to Marlborough, to avoid tolls on the New London Turnpike.

**Warning—do not try to cross Route 2 on foot!**

**B. TOLL GATE ROAD:** Park at the south end of Toll Gate Road beyond the Route 2 north-bound off ramp (Exit 11). Follow white blazes southeast along the abandoned road (formerly the New London Turnpike) across Dark Hollow Brook, then left up the logging road with white blazes to the junction with the blue-blazed Shenipsit Trail. The distance to the Shenipsit is about one mile.

**C. DIAMOND LAKE ROAD:** The blue-blazed Shenipsit Trail crosses Diamond Lake Road near Flat Brook. There is no parking here.

**D. HILL STREET:** Park at the end of Hill Street, taking care to avoid blocking passage on the street. There is room for only two cars. The Shenipsit Trail (blue blazed) follows Hill Street and then bears left along an old tote road.

**E. JOHN TOM HILL:** There is parking on state land on the south side of Birch Mountain Road. The John Tom Hill/Shenipsit Trail Connector (red and blue blazed) enters through Kongscut Land Trust property on the opposite side of the road at the break in the wall, about 130 yards north. There is another access trail, blazed blue, at the top of the hill, 1,000 feet north of the power lines. This is the start of a nice 3-mile loop walk with views of Hartford and the Connecticut River valley.