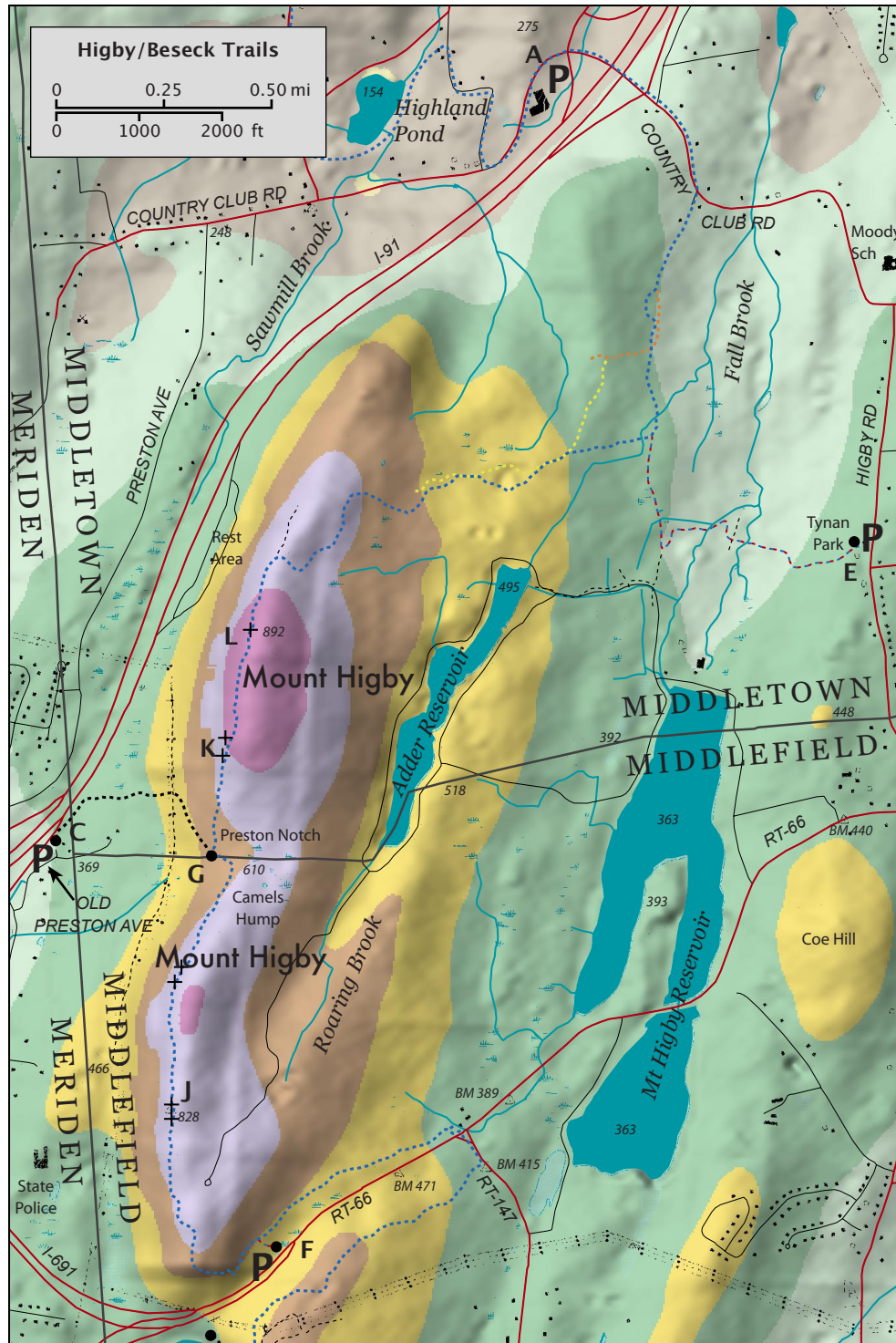
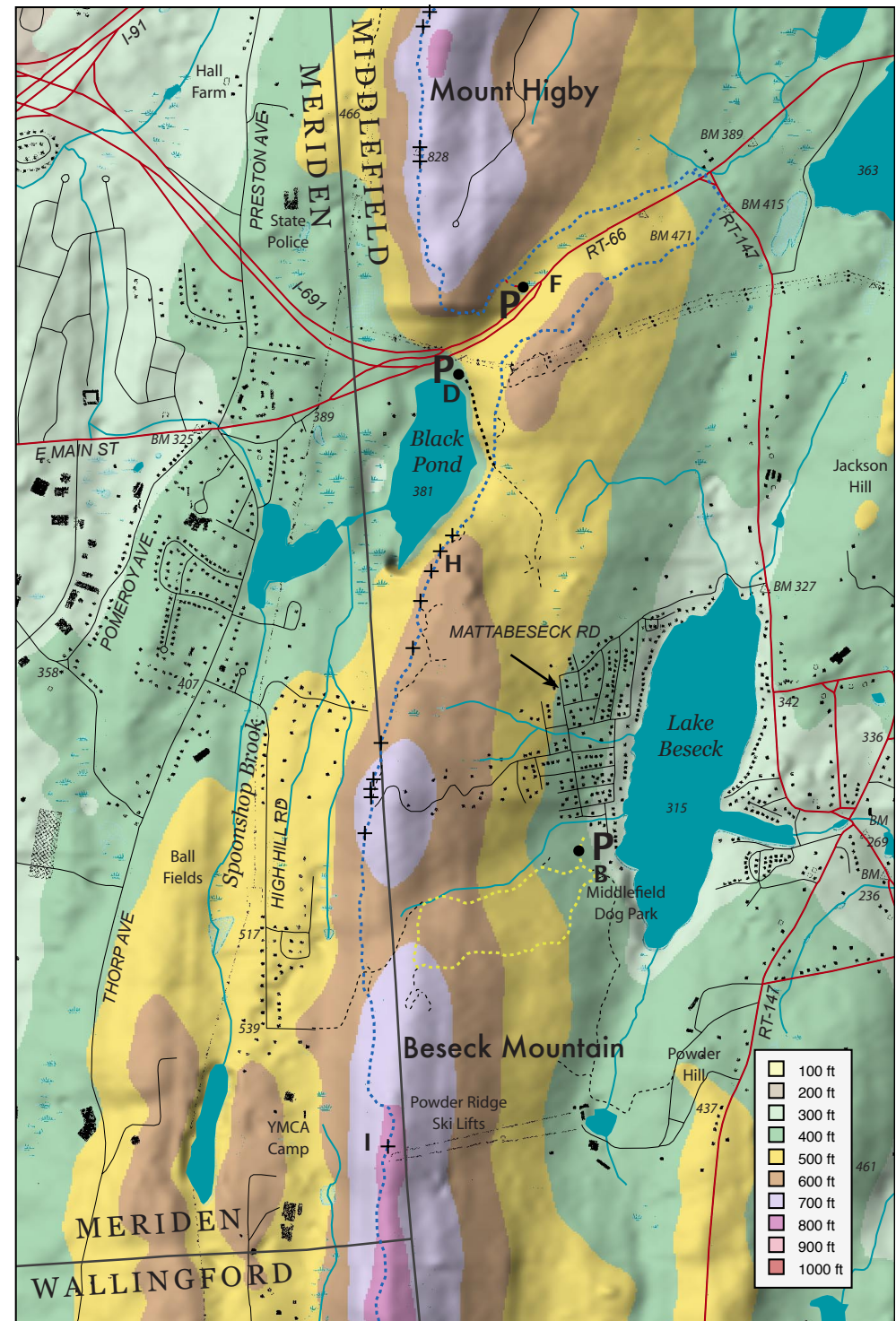


Mount Higby



Beseck Mountain



Higby/Beseck Trail Map

The map was created using open source software, Geographic Resources Analysis Support System (GRASS). The background is a shaded relief map generated from National Elevation Dataset (NED) data obtained from the United States Geological Survey (USGS), reproduced at a scale of about 1:26,000. Each shade of color represents a change in elevation of 100 ft. Map overlay data were obtained from USGS 1:24,000 scale topographic maps, with GPS field corrections for some brooks.

The location of each trail and landmark was determined from GPS tracks and waypoints recorded during the year 2009. Note that portions of blazed trails may have been relocated since then.

An excellent source of up-to-date information on the blue-blazed Mattabesett Trail is the web site for the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, the organization that maintains the blue-blazed trails.

<http://www.ctwoodlands.org/blue-blazed-hiking-trails>

Legend

—	Streets
— — — —	Blue-Blazed Trail
— — — —	Blue_Red-Blazed Trail
— — — —	Orange-Blazed Trail
— — — —	Yellow-Blazed Trail
— — — —	Unblazed Major Trail
— — — —	Unblazed Side Trail
P	Parking
—	Brooks, Ponds
—	Town Line
+	Scenic Overlook
●	Other Trail Landmark

Trail Landmarks [Elevation]

A	Country Club Rd. Lot (Trailhead)	[230 ft]
B	Middlefield Dog Park (Trailhead)	[350 ft]
C	Nature Conservancy (Trailhead)	[365 ft]
D	Black Pond (Trailhead)	[410 ft]
E	Tynan Park (Trailhead)	[420 ft]
F	I-691/Rt-66 (Trailhead)	[500 ft]
G	Preston Notch	[610 ft]
H	Beseck Mt. (Black Pond Overlook)	[640 ft]
I	Powder Ridge (Overlook)	[790 ft]
J	Mt. Higby (State Police Overlook)	[810 ft]
K	Mt. Higby (Hanging Hills Overlook)	[825 ft]
L	Mt. Higby (Suzio Quarry Overlook)	[870 ft]

Trail Descriptions

Mattabesett Trail [Blue, 10.4 mi] This segment of the blue-blazed National Scenic Trail follows the trap rock ridge from Rt-68 in Durham to Country Club Rd. commuter lot at I-91 in Middletown.

Nature Conservancy Trail [Black, 0.5 mi] Starts at the end of Old Preston Ave, crosses the power line right-of-way, and connects with the Mattabesett Trail at Preston Notch. Very limited parking.

Tynan Park Trail [Blue_Red, 0.8 mi] Starts at a parking area off of Higby Rd., between Rt-66 and Country Club Rd. The blue_red-blazed trail enters woods at the far back-left corner of the field, crosses Fall Brook (sometimes difficult) and connects with the Mattabesett Trail.

I-691/Rt-66 Trailhead [Blue_Red, 280 ft] Starts at the parking area on west-bound Rt-66 near I-691 and connects with the Mattabesett Trail.

Black Pond Trail [Black, 0.25 mi] Starts at a gate on the north end of the parking lot at Black Pond. At the top of the hill, follow the blue blazes to the right for an additional 0.25 to 0.4 mi for overlooks of Black Pond., or continue on to other destinations.

Middlefield Dog Park Trail [Yellow, 1.2 mi loop] Starts at the parking lot for the Middlefield Dog Park, located at the south end of Mattabesett Rd., behind Lake Beseck. The yellow-blazed trail comes close to the Mattabesett Trail, but does not directly connect to it.

Hiking Info

Location Mount Higby and Beseck Mountain form the ridge line along the eastern edge of Meriden, east of I-91.

Parking Parking is available at numerous locations marked with "P".

Terrain Mount Higby and Beseck Mountain offer spectacular views of Meriden, including The Hanging Hills, Lamentation Mountain, and Chauncey Peak. These trap rock ridges are extremely steep, and care should be taken. In addition to trails that climb to ridgelines, there are other trails that follow relatively level terrain.

Gear Hikers should wear sturdy shoes or boots on rocky or slippery trails. Don't forget water, and if you carry a daypack you will also have room for a snack, cell phone, binoculars, camera, field guide, first aid kit, insect repellent, etc.).

Following Blazes Many of these trails are marked with colored blazes located on trees or rocks. To avoid getting lost, pay close attention to the blazes. A double-blaze, with the top blaze offset to one side, indicates that the trail turns in the direction of the offset.

The next blaze will usually be visible on a well-blazed trail, except along a paved road. If you don't see the blaze, turn around and look behind you to be sure you are still on the trail. If you do not see a blaze in either direction, re-trace your steps until you find the previous blaze, and investigate further. The blazed trail may take an unexpected turn away from the main path, or a blaze may be on a fallen tree.

Credits Many thanks to Bob Pagini for the cover photograph and to Dwight Needels for the map and GPS data.

Printed courtesy of Connecticut Color, Inc. (located in Meriden, CT).

Order our consolidated trail guide or download free copies of trail guides for other Meriden Parks from our website.

Higby/Beseck Hiking Trails



Meriden Land Trust
<http://www.meridenlandtrust.org>