

## **PETER'S ROCK HISTORY, LEGENDS AND FOLKLORE**

Peter's Rock is the highest point (373 feet above sea level) and largest parcel of open space (220 acres) in North Haven. The view from the summit is expansive: to the north, you can see Sleeping Giant and the Hanging Hills of Meriden; to the east, Branford and North Branford; and to the south, New Haven harbor. Peter's Rock is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Peter's Rock's principal geological feature is unique. On the western side, which is its boldest face, its pentagonal columnar formations are unlike most other rock upheavals that are part of an extensive chain of trap rock intrusions running from New Haven to the Massachusetts border.

Its main geographic features are a second-growth mixed hardwood forest, high quality wetlands, and rock outcrops. Steep slopes are found especially in the central and southern portions of the site. A stream, which flows east to west and is eight to twelve feet wide, runs through the center of Peter's Rock.

For many years Peter's Rock--then known as Indian Rock--served as an Indian lookout. Among the farmers who later claimed Indian Rock was Peter Brockett, a Revolutionary War veteran who built a small hut at the northern base of the mountain and lived there for many years. Brockett named the site Peter's Rock.

In 1901 a group of wealthy New Haven businessmen rented the summit and built an elegant hunting lodge, which they named "The Hermitage." It was used until the Great Depression, when it was abandoned. All that is left of the lodge are a few anchor rods and a dilapidated wine cellar on the southern edge of the summit. A reduced-scale replica of the lodge has recently been constructed at the main entrance to Peter's Rock Park on Middletown Avenue.

## **PETER'S ROCK ASSOCIATION**

### **Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Peter's Rock Association is to preserve, maintain, and improve land owned by, and located in, the Town of North Haven known as Peter's Rock, for public use as a park, forest, and open space. Hiking trails, picnic areas, observation points, and other uses are determined by the Association and the Town. In making this determination, the Association shall consider such factors as the preservation of the land for educational pursuits including, but not limited to, geological, botanical, ornithological and scientific study; the development of passive recreational activities that benefit and promote the health and welfare of the community; and the perpetuation of Peter's Rock as a historic landmark. In order to accomplish its mission, the Association will recruit members, volunteers, and sponsors; solicit membership dues and contributions; develop and institute programs; and engage in general fundraising. In conjunction with the Town, the Association will work to acquire parcels of land contiguous to Peter's Rock.

### **Rules and Regulations:**

As Peter's Rock is a town owned property, users are subject to the Rules and Regulations of Open Space set by the Town of North Haven.

The following activities are absolutely prohibited on or in Open Space:

- a. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs;
- b. Operation of motorized vehicles;
- c. Removal, destruction or damage of or to any signs, notices, trees, shrubs and or plants;
- d. Hunting or trapping of animals;
- e. Dumping or littering;
- f. Swimming or wading;
- g. Smoking; and
- h. Lighting of matches and/or fires or fireworks

### **For more information, contact:**

Peter's Rock Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 762  
North Haven, CT 06473  
(203) 239-5321 x750  
[www.petersrockassociation.org](http://www.petersrockassociation.org)

# Peter's Rock Park Trail Map

## *"The Hermitage"*



**A joint effort by the:  
Peter's Rock Association  
and the  
Town of North Haven.**



## Trail Difficulties:

**Easy:** gradual slope with little or no obstructions - **Intermediate:** moderately sloped with sporadic obstructions and some erosion - **Difficult:** steeply sloped with many obstructions and severe erosion

**Red trail (1):** After an initial intermediate climb, the trail is wide and easy to the Little River bridge, it becomes an intermediate hike to **orange(4) trail** and **green(6) trail**. The final climb to the summit is difficult.

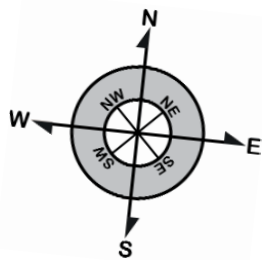
**Light blue trail (2):** Intermediate climb, the trail is easy and flat to the intersection with the **orange(4) trail**. It becomes a difficult climb to an overlook of 267' and the descent is difficult with loose rocks and levels out to intermediate to the **orange(4) trail**.

**Violet trail (3):** This trail is a short hike beginning off of the **orange(4) trail** immediately after leaving the **red(1) trail**. It is an easy hike although it consists of a rather steep uphill and downhill loop.

**Orange trail (4):** Intermediate trail with moderate slopes. Crosses over a footbridge. Leads to a clearing and an uphill grade - watch your footing at the end of the intersection of the **red(1) trail** and the **green(6) trail**.

**Yellow trail (5):** Easy trail from start off **orange(4) trail**, moderate slope to the **red(1) trail**. From here to the Organic Garden is under construction.

**Green trail (6):** From the **red(1) trail**, intermediate trail to stream (no bridge). The water is shallow and can be muddy. Becomes difficult before it intersects with **orange(4) trail** end and meets again with the **red(1) trail**. As you continue past the summit climb, the trail becomes easy until it makes a 90 degree turn and becomes difficult with a steep slope and loose rocks, ending at the **blue(7) trail**.



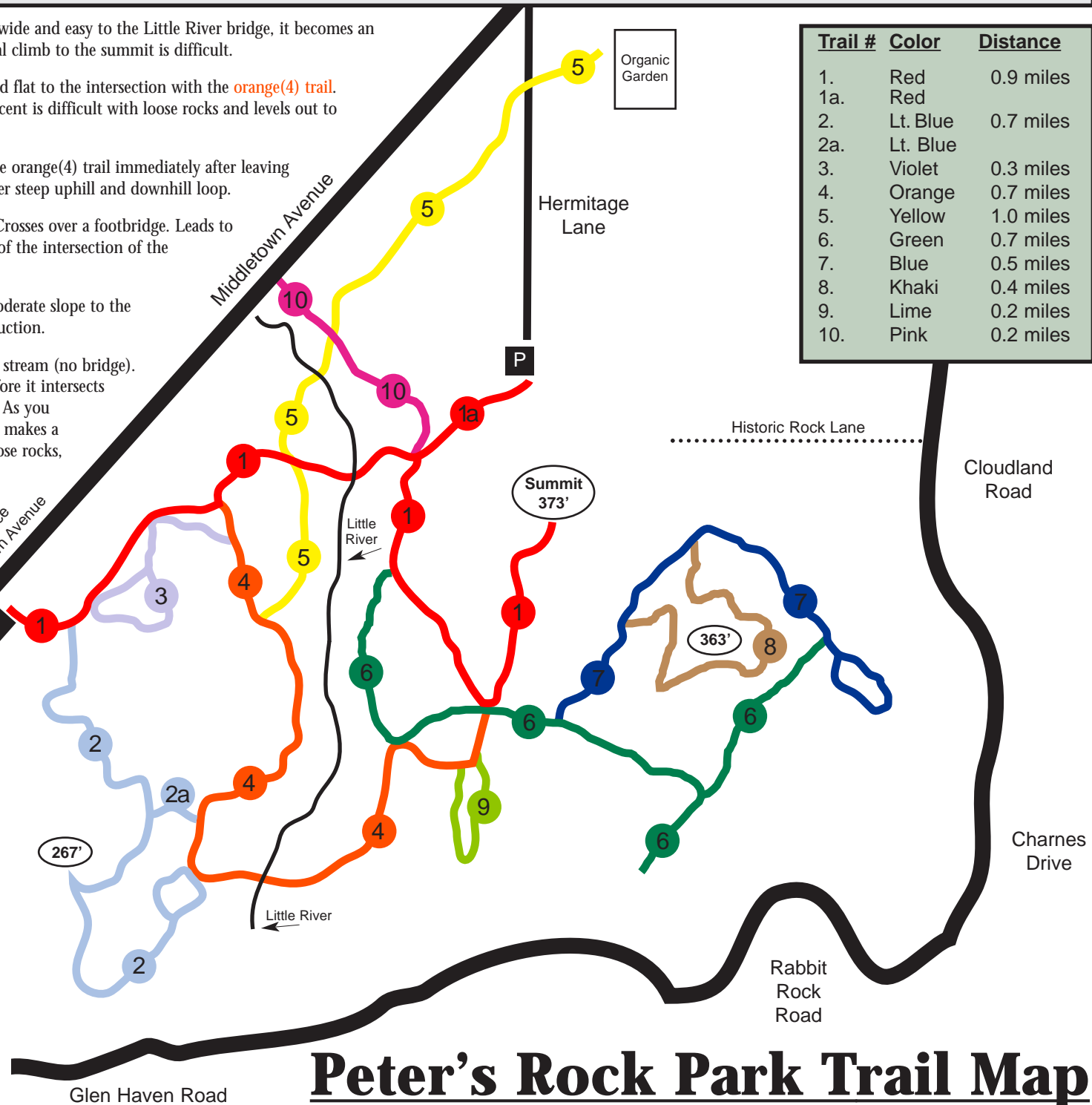
**Blue trail (7):** Easy to intermediate with moderate slopes. Approaching the loop end there is a steep downhill and uphill climb. The loop portion is easy with some obstructions.

**Khaki trail (8):** Presently unmarked but 363' summit is reachable on intermediate unblazed trail.

**Lime trail (9):** This is a short easy loop starting and ending on the **orange (4) trail**.

**Pink trail (10):** Easy to intermediate with a slight slope, obstructions and severe erosion on parts of the trail.

Trail #	Color	Distance
1.	Red	0.9 miles
1a.	Red	
2.	Lt. Blue	0.7 miles
2a.	Lt. Blue	
3.	Violet	0.3 miles
4.	Orange	0.7 miles
5.	Yellow	1.0 miles
6.	Green	0.7 miles
7.	Blue	0.5 miles
8.	Khaki	0.4 miles
9.	Lime	0.2 miles
10.	Pink	0.2 miles



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