

Avon/Simsbury/Stratton Brook Ride

Total Distance: **31.9 miles**

Elevation Gain: **783 feet**

Degree of Difficulty Index: **783 ft / 31.9 mi = 24.54 ft/mi**

Terrain: **Flat to rolling**

Killer Hills: **None** Geographical Region: **North Central Connecticut** City/Town: **Farmington**

Starting Location: **Brickyard Road trail parking about 1 mile from Rt. 4 in Farmington; turn off Rt. 4 onto Brickyard Road about 2.5 miles west of Farmington Center.**

Note: This is a very popular parking area for this multi-use trail and parking is apt to be quite limited especially during the weekends. Please plan accordingly.

Ride Description: **This is a neat ride through portions of Avon and Simsbury with a great (suggested) lunch stop at Stratton Brook State Park. The route visits Avon Old Farms School and Massacoh Plantation in Simsbury. Ride along portions of the "Rails-to-Trails" multi-use path and check out views of the Hueblein Tower.**

Facilities and *Points of Interest*:

Mile	Facilities - <i>Points of Interest</i>
0.0	<i>Start 1.3-mile ride on paved "Rails-to-Trails" bike path</i>
1.9	<i>Start tour of the Old Farms School campus; lovely architecture</i>
10.8	Tulmeadow Farm on right: seasonal ice cream
10.9	Convenience store on the left
11.9	<i>Start of ride on crushed stone path into Stratton Brook State Park</i>
12.2	<i>Stratton Brook State Park (water; bathrooms; swimming --- all seasonal); then continue on crushed stone path for another 0.8 miles</i>
14.0	<i>Start of Simsbury business district</i>
14.4	<i>Massacoh Plantation on the right. In the 1640's, when John Griffin and Michael Humphrey first crossed the Farmington River at "The Falls," they were searching for virgin pine forest where they could pursue their tar and pitch business. What they found was a verdant valley bounded by two low mountain ranges, rich with fish and wildlife. The native Massacoe Indians, of the Algonquin Nation, had lived off the bounty of the rich land and flowing river. The new settlers called the valley the "Massacoh Plantation." Between 1648 and 1661, Indian lands were gradually deeded over to the Englishmen. In 1670, the Massacoh Plantation came to be named "Simsbury."</i>
15.0	<i>Footbridge over the Farmington River (views)</i>
15.2	<i>Start 2-mile ride on paved bike path</i>
17.2	Possible lunch/snack stop @ benches just before trail reaches Rt. 315 @ a barrier
22.0	<i>Pinchot Sycamore: small park with Connecticut's largest sycamore tree; nice spot for a break</i>
22.5	<i>Start 2.4-mile ride on paved "Rails-to-Trails" path</i>
24.9	<i>Sperry Park; bike path passes through it</i>
25.7	<i>Avon town campus...Town Hall & Police Station (and other buildings)</i>
25.8	<i>Bike path crosses under Rt. 44 via a tunnel</i>
26.6	<i>Ride another 0.8-mile section of the paved "Rails-to-Trails" bike path</i>
28.0	<i>Golf Club of Avon (country club)</i>
30.5	<i>Return to starting point via a 1.4-mile section of the "Rails-to-Trails" path</i>