

The Butternut “Big Tree” Be-dazzler

Total Distance: **28.5 miles** Elevation Gain: **1779 feet (optional route)**
29.6 miles (optional route)

Degree of Difficulty Index: **1779 ft / 29.6 mi = 60.10 ft/mi** Terrain: **Hilly**

Killer Hills: **Wig Hill Road (on the optional route only)**

Geographical Region: **South Central Connecticut**

City/Town: **Chester**

Starting Location: **Rt. 9 Exit 8 CPL (Rt. 148) in Chester**

Ride Description: **This neat ride passes over rolling terrain in Chester, Deep River, Essex (including Centerbrook and Ivoryton) and Old Saybrook before returning to Chester to view the largest butternut tree in Connecticut. The route stops off in Essex (possible lunch/snack stop) near the Connecticut River Museum and then visits the gazebo at Deep River Landing (via the Centerbrook and Ivoryton sections of Essex) on the return trip. This is one of the “Big Tree” themed rides. Near the end of the ride there is an optional 1.2 mile hilly extension for those interested in getting more conditioning work.**

Facilities and *Points of Interest*:

Mile	Facilities - <i>Points of Interest</i>
5.0	<i>Centerbrook section of Essex</i>
~6.2	<i>Essex Meadows retirement community on the right</i>
10.2	<i>Start tour of Otter Cove development...watch route sheet cues carefully, it's a maze</i>
13.8	<i>Start of Essex village business district</i>
13.9	Public bathrooms on right in little park after post office and the NewAlliance Bank
14.1	<i>Connecticut River Museum; boat launch; dock/pier (good spot for a lunch/snack break); views</i>
16.6	<i>Entering Centerbrook section of Essex</i>
18.3	<i>Ivoryton section of Essex</i>
22.0	<i>Deep River business district</i>
22.9	<i>Deep River Landing gazebo (views)</i>
25.9	<i>Largest butternut tree in Connecticut on the left</i>
27.1	<i>Start of Wig Hill Road hill climb option</i>

Note: there are several stores along the route where food and beverages can be purchased, especially in Centerbrook, Essex village and Deep River

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