

Sandy's West Hartford Reservoir - Farmington Valley Tour

Total Distance: **33.0 miles**

Elevation Gain: **1396 feet**

Degree of Difficulty Index: **1396 ft / 33.0 mi = 42.30 ft/mi**

Terrain: **Rolling**

Killer Hills: **There are several hilly sections**

Geographical Region: **North Central Connecticut**

City/Town: **West Hartford**

Starting Location: **Rt. 4 (Farmington Avenue) Reservoir in West Hartford near the UConn Health Center. The entrance to the reservoir is located about 1 mile east of the UConn Health Center on Rt. 4 at a traffic light. Go straight back, about ½ mile, to the very large parking area to the rear of the water treatment plant.**

Ride Description: **This is a ride over rolling terrain with considerable flat riding combined with a few hilly sections. The ride includes a tour of the reservoir, visits bucolic Farmington, tours Avon Old Farms School, passes by the old Ensign-Bickford munitions factory that is now the police station and town offices for Avon, stops at the Farmington Valley Arts Center, travels over the bike trails in the Farmington Valley Greenway, and includes a lunch/snack stop on the rail trail over the Farmington River. Also visited will be Miss Porter's School, the Hill-Stead Museum with its sunken garden and a pass-through of the UConn Health Center. This is a quality ride with lots to see.**

Note: Although this ride passes through populated areas of the Farmington Valley, it keeps to lesser used roads and bike paths. As a result, it does not pass any places to purchase food or beverages.

Facilities and *Points of Interest*:

Mile	Facilities - <i>Points of Interest</i>
0.0	West Hartford Reservoir; bathrooms
0.0+	<i>Start tour of reservoir; watch out for pedestrians...who have the right of way</i>
10.4	<i>Blue Fox Run golf course on the left</i>
-	<i>Continue past another golf course, views of the Heublein Tower on Talcott Mt., firing ranges, and ride beside the Farmington River</i>
13.2	<i>Roadside park at the Pinchot Sycamore Tree, the largest in the state</i>
13.6	<i>Start ~ 2-mile ride on rail trail bike path to and through Sperry Park</i>
16.8	<i>Farmington Valley Arts Center</i>
17.0	<i>Former Ensign-Bickford munitions factory...now Avon town offices & police station</i>
20.1	<i>Tour Avon Old Farms School campus...neat architecture and lovely grounds</i>
21.3	<i>Start ~ 3-mile ride on rail trail bike path</i>
23.5	<i>Rail trail bridge over the Farmington River...good spot for a lunch/snack break</i>
26.0	<i>Miss Porter's School; beautiful old homes in this section of Farmington</i>
27.1	<i>Hill-Stead Museum; sunken gardens; bathrooms; water; beautiful grounds</i>
30.3	<i>Pass through the grounds of the UConn Health Center</i>
33.0	West Hartford Reservoir; bathrooms

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