

Carol's Connect the Trails Ride #2

Total Distance: **34.0 miles**

Elevation Gain: **1086 feet**

Degree of Difficulty Index: **1086 ft / 34.0 mi = 31.94 ft/mi**

Terrain: **Flat to rolling**

Killer Hills: **None**

Geographical Region: **North Central Connecticut**

City/Town: **Avon**

Starting Location: **Rail trail parking area, Thompson Road, Avon. From the I-84 take the Route 4 west Farmington exit. Go straight through the Route 4/Route 10 intersection in Farmington staying on Route 4 west. Turn right in 2 miles at traffic light onto Brickyard Road (@ Wood 'N Tap Restaurant). In 2.2 miles turn right onto Thompson Road (1st right after 4-way stop sign). Parking area is in 0.7 mile on right just before the trail.**

Ride Description: **This ride connects the paved trails in Avon and Simsbury, and tours the surrounding areas on mostly back roads. The route visits Avon Old Farms School, the International Skating Center of Connecticut and features several views of the Farmington River. A suggested lunch stop is at Stratton Brook State Park.**

Note: there are 2 miles of hard packed gravel trail (OK for road bikes) as well as 9 miles of paved rail trail on this ride.

Facilities and *Points of Interest*:

Mile	Facilities - <i>Points of Interest</i>
0.7	<i>Start tour through the Avon Old Farms School campus; beautiful stone architecture</i>
2.6	<i>Section of rail trail (paved)</i>
4.2	<i>Avon Town Offices and office park</i>
4.9	<i>Section of rail trail (paved)</i>
7.9	<i>Pinchot Sycamore: park with the largest sycamore tree in Connecticut on left after bridge over the Farmington River</i>
9.9	<i>Pedestrian bridge over Farmington River</i>
10.0	<i>Section of rail trail (paved)</i>
17.8	<i>International Skating Center of Connecticut; bathrooms; snack bar; water; watch the skaters</i>
18.2	<i>Convenience store on right</i>
23.2	<i>Section of gravel path leading to Stratton Brook State Park</i>
24.2	<i>Stratton Brook State Park; bathrooms; water; swimming (all seasonal); lunch/snack stop</i>
-	<i>More gravel path while exiting the park</i>
25.5	<i>More gravel path</i>
28.6	<i>Various facilities at and near the intersection of Routes 44 and 167</i>
31.3	<i>Views of the Avon Country Club</i>
32.6	<i>Final section of rail trail (paved)</i>

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