

# "Sandy Brook Bear" Ride

**NOTE: This Ride Description and its corresponding Route Sheet may not have been checked for accuracy by the [www.ctbikeroutes.org](http://www.ctbikeroutes.org) team**

Total Distance: **48.2 miles**

Elevation Gain: **3026 feet**

Degree of Difficulty Index: **3026 ft / 48.23 mi = 62.74 ft/mi**      Terrain: **Hilly**

Killer Hills: **None; but there are a few hilly sections**

Geographical Region: **Northwest Connecticut**

Starting Location (city/town): **Barkhamsted (near Riverton village)**

Starting Location (detailed directions to): **Whittemore Recreation Area parking lot in Peoples State Forest, East River Road, Barkhamsted. Take Rt. 44 to Rt. 181 in New Hartford; follow Rt. 181 for a couple miles to Pleasant Valley; go right on Rt. 318 across bridge (Farmington River) and then go left on East River Rd (immediately after bridge). The Whittemore Recreation Area (w/ sign) is on the left in about 3 miles.**

Ride Description: **Follow Sandy Brook and tributaries up hill and down dale and through super-scenic Sandisfield State Forest (real bear country). Cross into Massachusetts, stop at York Lake for a snack w/ views and then pause in tiny New Boston for another snack and a chance to watch kayakers navigating the stream near the general store. The ride goes to the Colebrook Dam with exceptional views. There are some climbs but you are rewarded for your effort with some great down hills. This is an exceptional ride.**

Facilities and *Points of Interest*:

<b>Mile</b>	<b>Facilities - <i>Points of Interest</i></b>
0.0	<i>Whittemore Recreation Area, Peoples State Forest</i>
4.0	<i>Start ~ 5 mile tour along Sandy Brook</i>
15.9	<i>York Lake in Sandisfield State Forest; views</i>
28.3	<i>New Boston; country store; river passes here w/ possible kayakers &amp; canoeists</i>
32.5	<i>Waterfall to the right</i>
35.6	<i>Access road to the Colebrook Dam; can take your bikes in for an interesting side trip w/ views</i>
40.9	Riverton village; convenience store and ice cream parlor
41.4	<i>Start ~ 4 mile ride down west side of Farmington River (exceptional views)</i>
45.3	<i>Start ~ 3 mile ride up east side of Farmington River (views) back to Whittemore Recreation Area</i>
48.2	<i>Whittemore Recreation Area, Peoples State Forest</i>

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Ride description: **Wu-New048**

Route sheet: **RS-New048**

Ride submitted by: **Carol Marchion/DPS, 6/19/08 (updated 10/6/08)**