

# Giuffrida Park

Giuffrida Park was originally part of an area farmed in the late 1600's and early 1700's by Jonathan Gilbert and later Captain Andrew Belcher. This farm, the first European settlement in this region, became known as the "Meriden Farm", from which the whole area eventually took its name. Today, the Park contains 598 acres for passive recreation and is adjacent to the Meriden Municipal Golf Course.

Located in the northeast corner of Meriden, the trails connect to the Mattabessett Trail (a Connecticut Blue-Blazed Trail) and are open to the general public. The trails have easy terrain particularly around the Crescent Lake shore with steeper areas along the trap rock ridges ascent of the Metacomet Ridge and approaching Mt. Lamentation.

Mount Lamentation was named in 1636 when a member of Wethersfield Colony became lost and was found by a search party three days later on this ridge, twelve miles from home. There is some controversy whether the Lamentation refers to his behavior or that of those looking for him. In 1735 a group of local men leased land on the western edge of this mountain in an attempt to find gold, as quartz formations there seemed promising. None was ever found.

Mt. Lamentation and its peak, Chauncey Peak, provide spectacular views of Hartford, Middlesex, and New Haven counties.



Photo By Bob Pagini

## Trail Description:

### Easy to Difficult Hike

Giuffrida Park offers everything from a peaceful reservoir to a beautiful wetland meadow to stunning views from Lamentation Mountain and Chauncey Peak. These trap rock ridges are extremely steep, and care should be taken. In addition to trails that climb to ridgelines, there are other trails that follow relatively level terrain.

Total trails distance is approx. 24.8 miles

## Directions and Parking:

To get to Giuffrida Park, travel along I-91 either north or south. Take Exit 20 and proceed west (left off exit from north or left, then right from the south) onto Country Club Road. The Park entrance is on the right. Parking areas are readily available at the Park. Trails start at the Crescent Lake parking lot.

## Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Hiking and biking are permitted. Picnic tables are also available. Crescent Lake is a reserve water supply therefore, swimming, rock climbing, and boating are prohibited. Fishing is also prohibited.



Photo By the City of Meriden

**Total Trails Length:** Approx. 24.8 miles

**Blue (Mattabessett Trail):** 6.3 miles. Moderate Hike

**Blue/Red (Mattabessett Cut-Off):** 0.04 miles. Easy Hike

**Red (Mt. Lamentation Trail):** 0.6 miles. Moderate to Difficult Hike

**Yellow (Mt. Lamentation Trail):** 0.8 miles. Moderate Hike

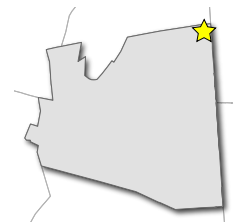
**White (Crescent Lake Loop):** 1.41 miles. Moderate Hike

**Other Trails:** 15.65 miles. Easy to Difficult Hike



## For more information about this location, contact:

Town of Meriden  
Recreation Program Supervisor  
(203) 630-4259



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