

Hike 7: Stefans Farm Open Space: Meadow Loop

102 Mechanic Street (Upton Community Garden parking lot)

NOTE: The Bluebird Trail is very overgrown during the warmer months of the year. You may want to do this hike after the foliage dies back but not when this often-wet trail freezes, as it can be very slippery then.

After parking, carefully cross the street and enter the trail. Follow it through a short section of woods, then straight through a short section of overgrown meadow, and then into the woods again. Ignore a trail on the right; it leads to a house. Pass a bench on your left with a trail behind it. Very quickly, you'll see a trail on the right with blue metal blazes, heading downhill; take this trail (Coyote Loop Trail).

Follow the blazes to pass over a series of somewhat overgrown boardwalks, then a wide bridge and a narrow boardwalk.

Continue following the blazes for a while until you see a trail on the left (Turtle Trail), with blazes indicating that the loop turns left here. Go left.

Carefully cross a seasonal stream and follow the trail uphill through a somewhat overgrown section. When you finally reach a "T" with the Bluebird Trail, go left and go straight through the very overgrown and often wet fields.

After you eventually pass the bench/entrance to the Coyote Loop Trail on your right, you'll re-enter the original field. Bear left at the split in the field (not really visible when the meadow is overgrown--just stay straight on the trail in this case) to return to your car.