



Become a NorWALKer!

EXPLORE CRANBURY PARK

Hiking, mountain-biking, cross-country skiing, playgrounds, and disc golf—this park has it all!

Loop 1

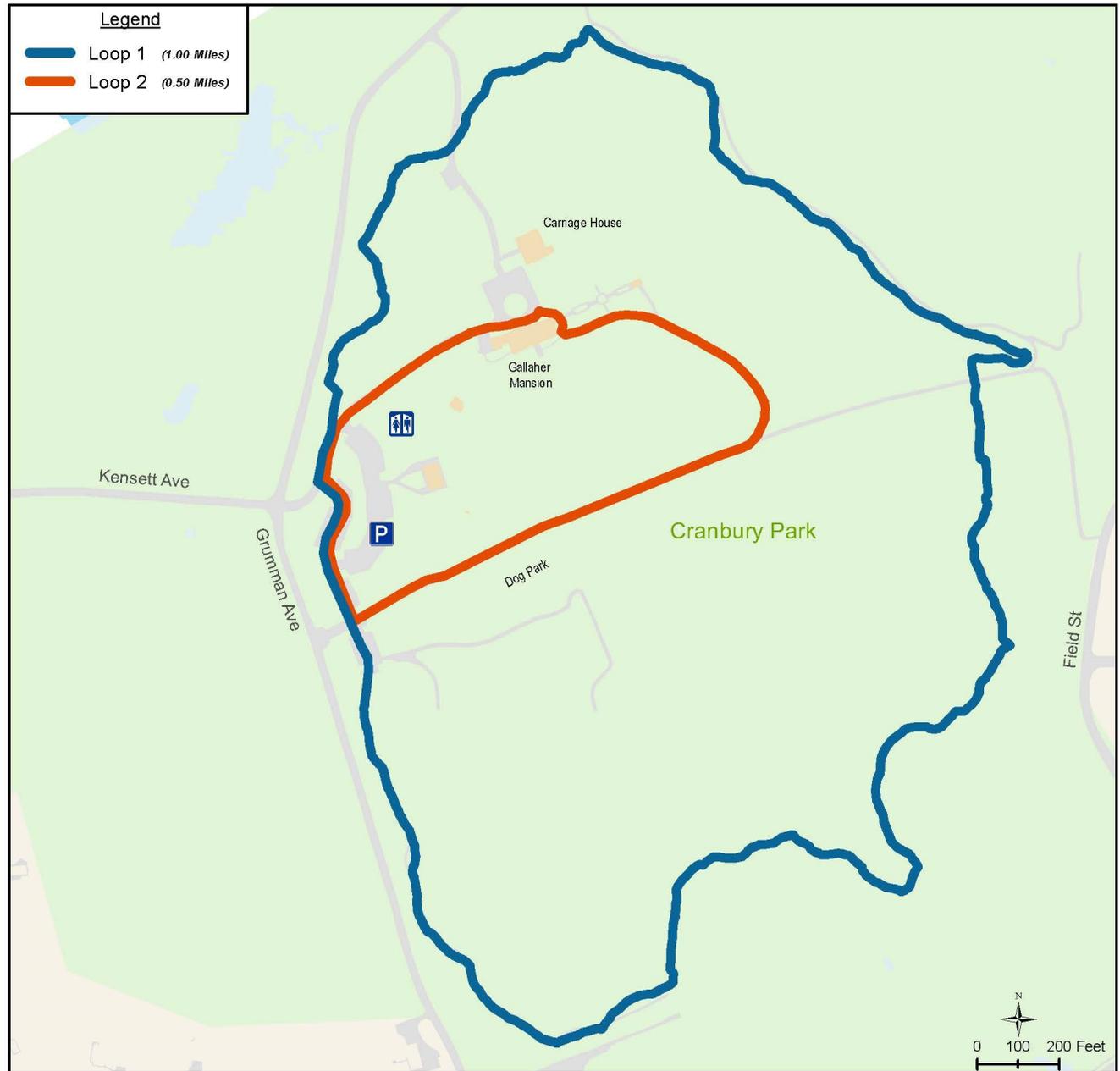
This loop follows the “Blue Trail” at Cranbury Park. Begin your walk at the edge of the parking lot (where the blue and red trails split on the map to your right). Follow the blue blazed trail, referring to the trail legend below as you walk.

Loop 2

Begin in Cranbury Park’s parking lot, across from the pavilion. Walk around the perimeter of the parking lot, heading on the paved path toward the Gallaher Mansion. Once you reach the roundabout in front of the mansion, enter the sidewalk just past the building and follow the path toward the great lawn. Follow the path around the outskirts of the lawn, eventually bringing you back to the parking area.

Trail Legend:

-  STRAIGHT
-  RIGHT TURN
-  LEFT TURN



PROCEED WITH CAUTION WHEN FOLLOWING NORWALKER ROUTES!

The *Healthy for Life Project* is not responsible for any injuries or accidents that may occur while following NorWALKer routes. Consult your doctor before beginning an exercise program. Use pedestrian crosswalks when available, obey all traffic laws, and if no sidewalks exist, walk against traffic. Wear proper footwear and reflective gear, and bring water with you while walking. Have fun!

CRANBURY PARK

Cranbury Park is located at 300 Grumman Avenue on the Norwalk-Wilton line. The best approach to the park's main entrance is by Kensett Avenue, starting at the Route 7 intersection in Wilton. Upon crossing the Norwalk town line, all the land seen through the rows of matched trees is part of the park. At the end of Kensett, turn left. The park's gated entry is 1000 feet north of the intersection of Kensett and Grumman Avenues.

HISTORY OF CRANBURY PARK AND GALLAHER MANSION

Norwalk's largest park consists of woodlands, walking trails, open fields, and a Great Lawn fronting its grand masterpiece, the Gallaher Mansion. The park's grounds and the Gallaher Mansion were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2011.

Admiring the ongoing construction of St. Paul's Church on the Norwalk Green, Edward Beach Gallaher hired its architect, Percy L. Fowler of Trenton, NJ, to design his residence in 1929. It was completed in the early 1930s. The gracious 11,000 square foot manor house is designed in the Tudor Revival style and constructed of Indiana limestone. Its twenty rooms feature period details such as fine imported wood paneling and stained glass windows.

E.B. Gallaher (1873-1953) found distinction among the many aspiring young designers of the new "horseless carriage," most notably with his Keystone and Searchmont cars. A prolific inventor, industrialist, and auto pioneer, he developed marine engines, transit systems, promoted automobile tourism in Europe and endurance auto racing in the U.S., was a founder of what became AAA, and served as an engineering consultant for Daimler of Germany, builders of the famous Mercedes engines and cars.

Gallaher became well known when he "retired" to Norwalk at 37 and founded a Main Avenue business that became one of Norwalk's largest employers. The Clover Manufacturing Company made industrial abrasives and a compound that was a must-have in every driver's toolbox.

Upon the death of Inez Gallaher in 1965, the City of Norwalk purchased the Gallaher Estate from Stevens Institute of Technology (Hoboken, NJ), Gallaher's alma mater, to which the Gallaher's had bequeathed their entire estate and business. Payment included \$1.5 million for the land, plus \$360,000 for all the buildings, which included the manor house, outbuildings, formal gardens, teahouse, and a

CRANBURY PARK

caretaker's cottage known as the Bunkhouse.

BOTANICAL NOTES

The park's most distinguished tree is the gigantic weeping beech located near the pavilion on the Great Lawn. It is at least 100 years old. Woodlands and groves surrounding the Gallaher manor and teahouse abound with a variety of trees, shrubs and vines, many marked with ID tags. During your walks, try to find some of the trees found on the estate: sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), black birch (*Betula lenta*), hickory (*Carya* spp.), American beech (*Fagus granifolia*), Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), pin oak (*Quercus palustris*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), black oak (*Quercus velutina*), and the arbor-vitae (*Thuja occidentalis*).

PARK FEATURES

Cranbury Park's six miles of trails may be used for walking/hiking, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing. Some trails are ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible. Playground equipment at the Great Lawn and the South Parcel provide physical activity opportunities for children.

A lively community theater, The Carriage House Arts Center, performs for adults and kids almost year-round. You can learn more by visiting their website: www.carriagehouseartscenter.org

How about a game of Disc Golf? That's golf with Frisbees. Cranbury Park's competition quality 18-hole course is popular, and tournaments are held regularly.

Restrooms are located at the Great Lawn near the mansion. Trail maps can be found outside the Gate House and at the Orchard Kiosk.

PARK REGULATIONS

After your walk, how about an informal picnic on the grounds? You may bring your own grill, but open fires and glass containers are not permitted.

Well-socialized dogs are welcome in designated areas—the Orchard and on trails, but not on the Great Lawn or near the mansion—and must be kept under control at all times. Always pick up after your pet.

Motorized vehicles are not permitted.

CRANBURY PARK

CONTACT AND RENTAL INFORMATION

The Gallaher Mansion is available for parties and wedding rentals. Visit www.gallahermansion.com for information.

For rental details or further information concerning park events, please contact Norwalk Recreation and Parks at (203) 854-7806 or online at www.norwalkct.org.

PARK HOURS AND ADMISSION

Cranbury Park is open year-round from 7am to sunset, seven days a week. Norwalk residents are admitted free with a current beach/parks pass. Non-residents may purchase a season pass (\$65) or pay a per-entry fee (\$5).

Trail maps and markings were projects of Friends of Cranbury Park: www.friendsofcranburypark.org. Many trail improvements were accomplished as projects of Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts.

Compiled by Ralph Bloom (2006); Celia Maddox (2016)



For more information about NorWALKer Routes, call (203) 854-7776 or visit www.healthyforlifeproject.org



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