

**Westside Nature Preserve / Self-directed Tour - 2007-2008**  
**Western Connecticut State University**  
**Danbury, CT 06811**  
**Mill Plain Road/Opposite Super Stop 'n Shop**



Each of the following 10 numbers refers to a station at which there is a numbered post. Face the post when reading the station description. This trail begins near the bottom of the long slope with the metal handrail. Take a right at the blue blaze; this trail has the shape of a horseshoe; if you always turn left you will return to about where you are now, but at the top of the slope across the Central Valley- so turn left again and you will return right here.

**West Limb of the Horseshoe**

**Station 11** - Note the Central Valley in front of you- in the spring this is one of the first areas to turn green, thanks to Skunk Cabbage foliage. Most of the shrubs (at eye level) in this part of the Central Valley are Spicebush.

**Station 12** - Note that in front of you there is a relatively dry woodland. At the top of the hill there is a mound with a depression behind it- this is man made (purpose?) and the associated trees are less than 30 years old.

**Station 13** - Note the stone wall; Euonymus (the shrub at about eye-level); Christmas Ferns to your right and Japanese Barberry to your left.

**Station 14** - Note the Yellow Birch Trees all around and their very superficial roots; also notice the brook in front of you.

**Station 15** - Notice how the stream has undercut its opposite bank. In front of you and slightly to the left is a Poison Ivy Vine (hairy) growing on a tree; closer, and slightly to your right, is a Tulip Tree sapling. Directly to your right is a Yellow Birch with a Poison Ivy Vine (hairy) on which green Lichen is growing,

**Station 16** - Behind you, on top of the slope, there is a park bench with a nice view. In front of you (slightly to the right) is a large Tulip Tree. All around you

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there are a lot of Japanese Barberry plants. In front of you is the Central Valley and near the stone wall there is a venerable old Oak, with wild grape vines

**Arch of the Horseshoe**

**Station 17** - In front of you (looking north) is the Central Valley. There is an arc of athletic fields around you. Also, note the surrounding disturbed land.

**East Limb of the Horseshoe**

**Station 18** - In front of you and to the left is an American Beech Tree (notice the smooth bark). To the right, the 3 large trees with straight trunks are Tulip Trees. The large tree to the right, at the stonewall corner, is a Red Oak. Behind you is the Central Valley.

**Station 19** - In front of the post is a grove of American Beech Trees and scattered Oak Trees. Behind you is the Central Valley.

**Station 20** - To your right, are New York Ferns (green in season, brown in winter). To your left are many Euonymus shrubs (at about eye level). On the ground is Partridgeberry. Behind you is the Central Valley.

We appreciate your suggestions for improvement of the WNP and this self-directed guide. Please forward such suggestions (by mail, email, or voicemail) to:

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