

KILLINGLY BIKE TOUR SHORT ROUTE

A Tour of the natural, cultural and historic resources of DANIELSON

Sponsored by:

The Killingly Conservation
Commission

BOROUGH OF DANIELSON LOOP (APPROXIMATELY 6 MILES)

This shorter ride will take cyclists on a tour of some unique resources in Danielson. The tour starts by crossing the 5 Mile River by Risom Mill and some unique mill housing. The tour will continue on past the Killingly High School and Town Hall to the newly constructed courthouse and recently renovated Attawaugan Hotel (Main Street Exchange). The tour then takes riders past the Danielson Armory then down to the existing and proposed river trail and back to the College via Upper Maple Street.

REMEMBER...

THIS IS NOT A RACE!

PLEASE STOP AT ALL

INTERSECTIONS AND USE EXTRA

CAUTION WHEN CROSSING

THESE AREAS! RIDE SAFE AND

HAVE FUN!

The Killingly Conservation Commission
Goal Statement:

“To promote development, conservation, supervision and responsible management of all natural resources within the Town of Killingly and provide the methodology for protection and maintenance of these resources.”

If you would like more information on the Killingly Conservation Commission, feel free to attend one of their regularly scheduled meetings at the Killingly Town Hall (172 Main Street in Danielson). The Commission normally meets the third Wednesday of every month at 7PM in the Council Chambers.

POINTS OF INTEREST ALONG THE ROUTE: (Refer to map on for locations)

① Start/End

QVCTC is part of a 2000 acre tract which James Danielson of Block Island Purchased in 1707. The earliest known settler of this part of Killingly, he reportedly had seen the beautiful Quinebaug and Five Mile River Valley during campaigns in King Phillip’s War circa 1676

② North Street

Pass by the Westfield Cemetery and Five Mile River. To the northeast of the river is the Doran property – approximately 10 acres of which is in the process of being donated to the town for open space. The property contains approximately 3,100 feet. This piece of land offers the possibility of satisfying a number of local recreational needs of KHS, Ellis Tech, QVTC, as well as a relatively dense surrounding residential population.

③ Risom Mill

The Connecticut Mills Co., formed in 1909, owned this steam powered factory. The extant brick mills were erected in 1915 and the earlier 1909 structure is no longer standing. By 1929, this was one of the factories that renowned curtain manufacturers Powdrell and Alexander owned.

④ Lions Park

The Lewis Boulevard land was donated to the Town of Killingly in 1973 by Chuck Prest. In the late 1970’s and early 80’s, the town made improvements for its use as a small neighborhood park.. In 1980, the Lions Club took responsibility for the park. To recognize the club’s generosity, the park is now named Lions Park. Lewis Blvd. is an unusual town road as its width is 100 feet versus the more standard width of 50 feet. It was intended to have a median strip and be a true “boulevard”. Early maps of the area show a never-constructed road circling Lions Park pond and named Lake Drive.

⑤ The Gables

Erected in 1917, these Tudor and Colonial revival houses along Morin and Wheatley Streets were the company housing for Connecticut Mills and were considered quite an innovation in mill housing. The centerpiece of this area is a stone Tudor revival building with three sections meeting at angles. A domed clock tower rises from the junction of two of the sections and an arched passageway opens to an interior court.

⑥ Killingly High School

On September 13, 1965 the current Killingly High School opened and the old High School (now the Community Center) became the first Junior High School in the history of the town.

7) Town Hall

The existing Town Hall building was originally constructed as a Music Hall in 1876 and was considered one of the finest buildings for public entertainment to be found in Windham County. The auditorium had a stage and gallery and seated 800 people. In 1906 the music hall was purchased by the town and was converted to the Town Hall.

8) School Street

The site of the new State Courthouse was the former site of the first public High School for the Borough of Danielson. It housed all eight grades for the children of Danielson and provided a secondary education for all children of the town.

9) Former Attawaugan Hotel (1856)

Renovated in 1930, this 4-story wood-frame building with brick façade operated as a hotel until 1979. The entire building was completely gutted and State grants allowed for the complete renovation to what you see today. The building is now referred to as the “Main Street Exchange” and is home to various businesses like Papa Joe’s, Health Net, Shaw’s and the Northeast District Department of Health.

10) Water Street

A blacksmith shop and iron works had been erected on Water Street by the 1770’s. During the 1780’s, one of the first woolen mills in CT was constructed near the confluence of the Five-Mile and Quinebaug Rivers. Later assimilated into the Danielson Manufacturing Co., this area is one of the oldest textile sites in the entire U.S. The Danielson Co. store, located near the present brick factory, was run by Comfort Tiffany – father of the famous NY jeweler Charles Tiffany – apparently born in a house on Maple St. in 1812.

11) Quinebaug River Trail

A 1-mile paved bike trail with scenic overlooks of the Quinebaug River. A federal grant was awarded to the town in 1999 to extend this trail (now under design) to the Plainfield town line.

