

## Property Descriptions & Locations

### Town of Essex Open Space Properties

**Bushy Hill & Platt:** 131 acres of hilly terrain with extensive hiking trails owned by the Town of Essex and the Essex Land Trust (ELT). The area is a heavily forested former pasture land. Dogs must be on leash. Access: Bushy Hill Road, Ivoryton.

**Canfield-Meadow Woods:** 300 acres of woodlands owned by ELT and the Towns of Essex and Deep River. Access: Book Hills Woods Road, Eagle Ridge Drive, and Dennison Road.

**Cross Lots:** 15 acres in the center of Essex. Extends from a hilltop park through fields to a large dogwood grove. Access: 40 West Avenue, across from Essex Library.

**Falls River & Jean's Island:** 44 wooded acres with 3,300 feet of waterfront on the Falls River. Access: Falls River Drive off Main Street, Ivoryton. Includes kayak/canoe landing and park on Falls River Drive. Jean's Island is 8 acres only accessible by canoe/kayak.

**Fern Ledge & Farm Hill Estates:** 17 acres of high ledge and woodland with hiking trails. Access: Route 153 or Westbrook Road, alongside the Middlesex Hospital Occupational Medicine facility. Farm Hill Estates has no trails.

**Heron Pond:** 29 acres of forested hills, valleys and streams. Access: Heron Pond Road, off Route 154.

**The Millrace:** 7 acres along the Falls River between Walnut and Ivory Streets in Ivoryton. Access: Ivory Street. Pedestrian access from corner of Walnut and Main Streets.

**Johnson Farm:** 49 acres of farmed hay fields along with mixed deciduous forest. Access: Parking on Read Hill Street, off Comstock Road, Ivoryton. Pedestrian access off of Walnut Street.

**Pond Meadow:** 18 acres of upland forest and wetlands feeding into the Falls River, across from Comstock Field. Access: Park Road, off of Walnut Street, Ivoryton.

**The Preserve:** 71 acres connected to 893 acres in Old Saybrook via two access locations. Access: Ingham Hill Road off Rt. 153, or Westbrook Road, Essex.

**James Glen-Doanes' Woods-Woodja Hill:** Three contiguous properties covering 40 acres. Access: Hudson Lane, off River Road. Navy Lane off Book Hill Road, and Oxbow Lane, off Meadow Woods Road.

**Osage Trails (the Elizabeth Callender Preserve):** 8 acres of lawn, meadow, forest and wetlands fronting on Falls River Cove. Access: Foxboro Road.

**Tiley Pratt Pond:** 9 wooded acres with 650 feet of waterfront overlooking the pond. Access: Lane off Laurel Road just north of intersection with Grandview Terrace, Essex.

**Viney Hill Brook Park:** 104 acres, owned by Town of Essex. Dogs must be on leash. Access: End of Hillside Drive and Cedar Grove Terrace.

Front cover photo credit: Renee Smith

## Essex Land Trust

**Turtle Creek:** 96 forested acres in Essex and Old Saybrook on both South Cove and the Connecticut River. The creek winds northward through extensive wetlands to a narrow strip of beach. Dogs must be on leash. Access: Watrous Point Road in Old Saybrook.

**Windswept Ridge:** 47 acres of hilly woodlands with hiking trail. Three access points: Windermere Way, off of Mare's Hill Road/ Windswept Ridge Road, Windsor Lane, off of Main Street/Edgewood Avenue, and behind Essex Financial Services facility, off of Route 153.

**Thatchbed Island:** 8 acres of wetland separating South Cove and the Connecticut River. No public access. Viewable from mainland or watercraft.

**Great Meadow:** 91 scattered acres on the Connecticut River also fronting on North Cove. Composed of brackish wetland in the south and freshwater marsh in the north. No public access.

**Pocket Parks: Stanley Park:** Mowed lawn with bench on Falls River, Main Street, Centerbrook. **Morgana's Place:** On corner of North Main and New City Streets, Essex.

### Vision

A network of permanently protected preserves that gives people of all ages ample opportunities to enjoy the beauty of nature while safeguarding our waterways and wetlands, and supporting healthy wildlife habitats.

### Mission

The Essex Land Trust acquires, preserves, and manages its open space to protect the environment and small-town character of the villages of Centerbrook, Essex, and Ivoryton for current and future generations. We provide our community with recreational and educational opportunities through strategic acquisitions and responsible stewardship of properties with significant environmental value.

### Become an Essex Land Trust Member

Members receive our newsletter, *Woods & Waters*, and receive an invitation to our Annual Meeting. Members also receive a calendar of Land Trust events, and email updates. A Conservator for Life membership designation is a one-time \$1,500 donation and is commemorated with the member's name being installed on the Conservators' Rock, located at the Cross Lots preserve.

Dues enable the Land Trust to identify and pursue future open space opportunities, maintain the properties already acquired, and educate the community on the importance of our environmental heritage. Memberships are per family, paid annually or as a Conservator for Life.

Essex Land Trust • P.O. Box 373  
Essex CT 06426 • [EssexLandTrust.Org](http://EssexLandTrust.Org)  
Facebook & Instagram: [@essexlandtrust.org](https://www.instagram.com/essexlandtrust.org)



**Essex Land Trust**  
*Caring for Our World Here at Home*



**Essex Land Trust**

OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES

**Town  
of  
Essex**



[EssexLandTrust.org](http://EssexLandTrust.org)

# Essex Open Space Properties

Essex, CT

Total open space in Essex exceeds 1000 acres, of which the Essex Land Trust owns 753 and the Town of Essex holding 336 acres. With preserves open from dawn to dusk, 35 miles of trails are accessible to the public. Visitors are asked to stay on trails and respect the environment.



- Essex Land Trust Preserves
- Other Protected Properties
- Property Access Point



Essex Land Trust - April 2024

Essex Land Trust  
P.O. Box 373  
Essex CT 06426  
[www.essexlandtrust.org](http://www.essexlandtrust.org)  
[Info@essexlandtrust.org](mailto:Info@essexlandtrust.org)

