

Falls River Preserves

"Conservation means harmony between men and land. When land does well for its owner, and the owner does well by his land; when both end up better; by reason of their partnerships, we have conservation."

— Aldo Leopold, Round River

Four properties are included: Falls River Preserve, a 40-acre peninsula of forest and ledge projecting into Mill Pond on the Falls River; Falls River Landing, a waterfront park, allowing access by canoe or kayak; Jean's Island, a seven-acre preserve on Mill Pond (a 59-acre impoundment) only accessible by canoe or kayak; and Stanley Park, a pocket park located on Main Street Centerbrook. The lowlands walk is easy for all ages. More challenging trails cross over ledges of 800-million-year-old metamorphic schist forming the peninsula's spine.

History: The Falls River has been dammed here since 1702. The resulting water power has been harnessed over the years to run a gristmill, a sawmill and an iron works. The land was used for logging and as a sheep pasture as recently as the 1930s. Jean's Island was once open pasture, cattle were walked to the island across an exposed strip of land that has since disappeared. Two small ponds are the remains of gravel pits dug for the construction of the old Route 9, once the main road to Middletown. The Essex Land Trust acquired the island from Jean Leuchtenburg in 2005.

Flora and Fauna: The entire area is an important stopover for neotropical migrants, blackbirds and other songbirds and is the year-round home of chickadees, titmice, cardinals, nuthatches and woodpeckers. Waterfowl include swans, wood duck and mallards, while egrets, cormorants and osprey drop in from Long Island Sound and the Connecticut River.

Mill Pond: Bass, perch, sunfish and catfish populate the pond. A Friends Association cares for the Mill Pond ensuring that invasive plants such as fanwort and milfoil are kept under control. Possible activities include canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and ice skating in winter.

Location: Falls River Drive, off Main Street, Ivoryton.



The Essex Land Trust

Our Vision and Mission

The Essex Land Trust is an independent nonprofit organization supported by generous donations and managed by a dedicated group of volunteers. Its Vision is to preserve our community's open space and natural resources for the benefit of future generations.

To this end, our Mission is to acquire open space by gift or purchase and to protect the environment and the small town character of the three villages, Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton, which comprise the town of Essex and to provide our community with passive recreational and educational opportunities.

To fulfill these objectives the land trust conserves wildlife habitats, forests, fields, rivers, wetlands and scenic views by maintaining properties in a natural state.

Become an Essex Land Trust Member

Members receive our newsletter, *Woods & Waters*, and receive an invitation to our Annual Meeting. Members also receive email updates about upcoming events, Conservators for Life are members who donate \$1500 in a given year. Their names are placed on the bronze Conservators Plaque located at Cross Lots.

Giving to the Essex Land Trust

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.

Land acquisition fund gifts are restricted to the purchase of land or easements and to associated expenses, including surveys and engineering studies.

Unrestricted gifts for the general purposes of the land trust can be made at any time. Memorial and Legacy gifts are always appreciated.

As a 501(c)(3) Corporation, the Essex Land Trust is a qualified recipient of conservation land donations and easements.

Essex Land Trust • P.O. Box 373

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Facebook & Instagram: [@essexlandtrust.org](https://www.instagram.com/essexlandtrust.org)



Essex Land Trust

Caring for Our World Here at Home



Essex Land Trust

Trail Maps

Falls River Preserves



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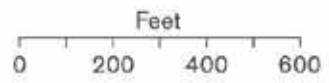


Falls River Preserve



Falls River Preserves Essex, CT - 55 acres

- Conservation Area
- Parking Area
- Point of Interest
- Footpath
- Road
- Water
- Contour
(10 ft. intervals)



August 2024
Source: Essex Land Trust

Welcome to Falls River Preserve

- Open sunrise to sunset
- Please respect the privacy of our neighbors
- Stay on marked trails to avoid damage to soil and habitats
- Do not remove or destroy plants, trees
- Dogs are welcome but must remain under control of owners.
- Clean up after your dog
- Leave no trace – please carry out what you carry in
- No fires, hunting, bicycling or motorized vehicles allowed
- This map is for general reference use only

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