

James Glen, Doanes' Woods & Woodja Hill Preserves

"An interest in nature leads you into a kind of enchanted labyrinth. You wander from corridor to corridor; one interest leads to another interest; one discovery to another discovery. It matters little where you begin."

—Edwin Way Teale, *Circle of the Seasons*

These three properties combine to make 40 contiguous acres that include an open field, upland forest, forested wetland and a beaver pond. Woodja Hill connects through a right of way with Lyons Meadow and Millstone Hill, Deep River Land Trust parcels, thereby creating a 50-acre greenway. The properties sit on the ridge overlooking the Connecticut River and include the headwaters of three small watersheds draining to three distinct portions of the Connecticut River. Stone walls are spread throughout the properties. There is an unusual crook in the stone wall on the valley floor of Woodja Hill where old timers say a natural spring supplied water and the property line was "adjusted" to ensure the livestock had access.

History: The property has a rich historical heritage. The Doane family holdings date back to Israel Doane in the 1700s. The current generation of the Doane family is the seventh generation on the property, which was a homestead farm for many years. An old farm road and stone walls still wind through the property. The James Glen section belonged to Essex physician Dr. Raymond James.

Flora and Fauna: Several types of upland and wetland habitats promote vegetation for wildlife food and for migratory and movement corridors. Tree varieties abound: red maple, black and yellow birch, American beech, northern red oak, and white oak. Other plants and understory vegetation are: spice bush, mountain laurel, American Hornbeam, American Holly, greenbrier, ferns, skunk cabbage and Jack-in-the-Pulpit in season. The meadow includes bluestem bunch grass, blueberry bushes along with sporadic eastern red cedars.

The forested area provides habitat for hawks, owls, woodpeckers, as well as for deer, fox, and coyote. The open area habitat supports numerous birds and small mammals, as well as hunting grounds for birds of prey and larger mammals. There has been regular presence of the Eastern Box Turtle while the valley floor wetlands harbor amphibians, including frogs and salamanders.

Eagle Scout bridge: taking advantage of stone abutments from an earlier time, Michael Ryan, along with members of Scout Troop 12, erected a 14-foot bridge spanning a brook that creates a valley running down the length of the James Glen property.

Location: on Hudson Lane, off River Road, at end of Navy Lane off Book Hill Road, and at the end of Oxbow Lane, off Meadow Woods Road.

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

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Essex Land Trust
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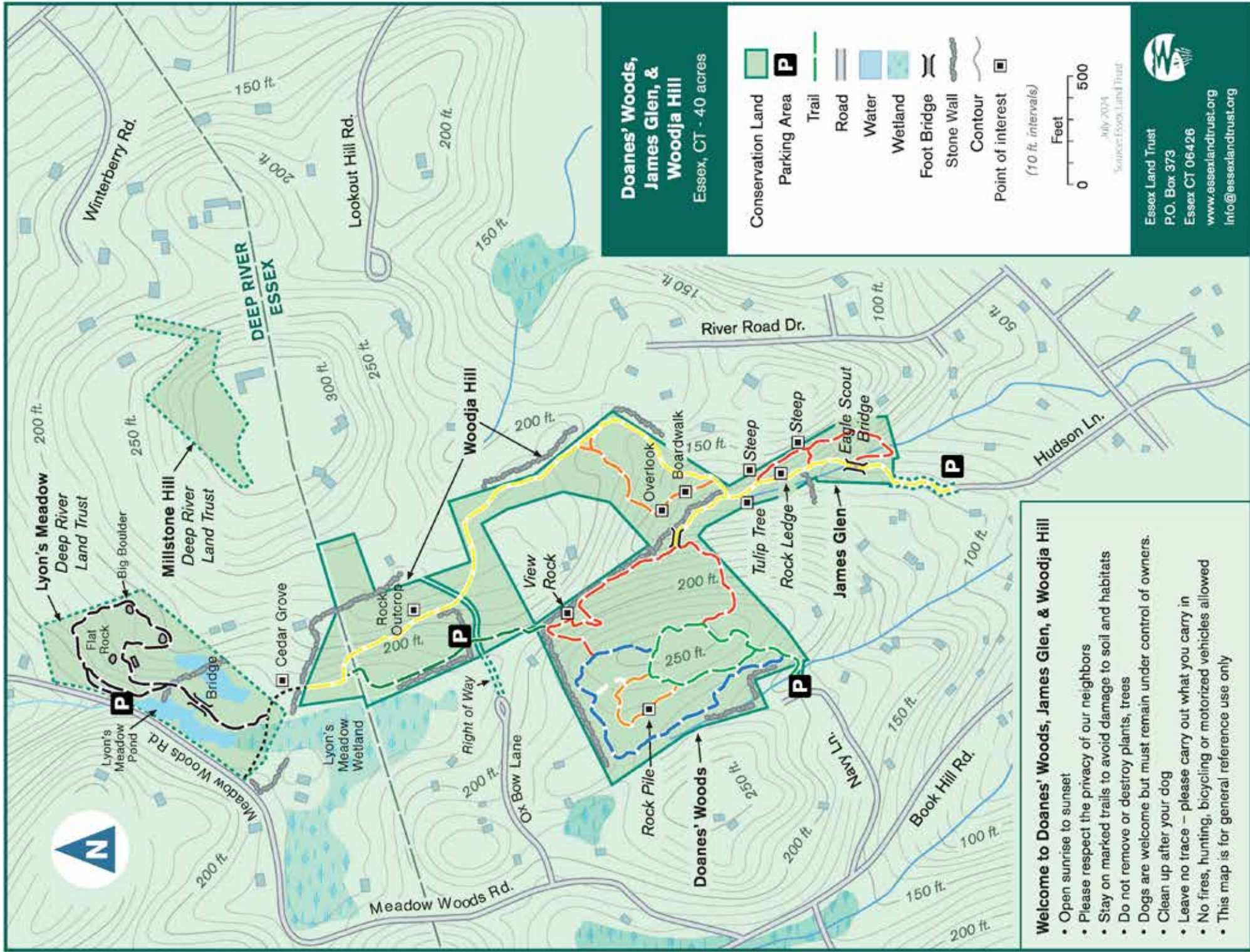
Essex Land Trust

TRAIL MAPS

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