

Bushy Hill & Platt Preserves

"In the woods, too, a man casts off his years, as the snake his slough, and at what period soever of life is always a child. In the woods is perpetual youth."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature*

Bushy Hill Nature Preserve is comprised of 107 acres of forested land maintained by the Essex Conservation Commission. The 30-acre Platt Property, belonging to the Essex Land Trust, adjoins the preserve at its southern boundary. The terrain is mostly hilly, with ledge outcroppings, a network of lively streams and several wetland areas.

History: Much of the land in both the preserve and the trust property was used for farming beginning in the mid 1800s. The large "wolf" tree, an ancient white oak standing by the trail, once provided shade to grazing animals, and a man-made pond was used for watering livestock. Look for traces of old logging roads crisscrossing the property. The original 107-acre tract of land was purchased in 1974 by the Town of Essex from Adelaide M. Warner with the help of state and federal funding.

Flora and Fauna: An enormous glacial boulder hung with mosses and ferns lies near the river. The forest canopy consists of oak, hickory, birch, beech and ash trees. Red maples dominate wet regions and younger forest areas are full of red cedar, dogwood and black cherry. Mature forest includes oak, beech and ash, with red maple and red cedar in the wetlands. The wet understory features spicebush, sweet pepper bush, cinnamon fern, skunk cabbage, false hellebore and cardinal flowers. Dry understory consists of mountain laurel, various ferns and wildflowers including violets, Solomon's seal, rattlesnake plantain, partridgeberry, lady's slipper, Indian pipes and wintergreen. Fungi appear in late summer.

The properties abound with wildlife: white-tailed deer, fox, raccoon and squirrels may be seen, along with a host of birds, including woodpeckers, crows, hawks and owls. Springtime brings warblers, sparrows, thrushes, vireos, and flycatchers.

Location: In Ivoryton – Bushy Hill Road and Oakledge Drive.



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 are sent 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 gifts are always appreciated.

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

Essex Land Trust • P.O. Box 373 Essex

CT 06426 • EssexLandTrust.Org

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



Essex Land Trust

Caring for Our World Here at Home



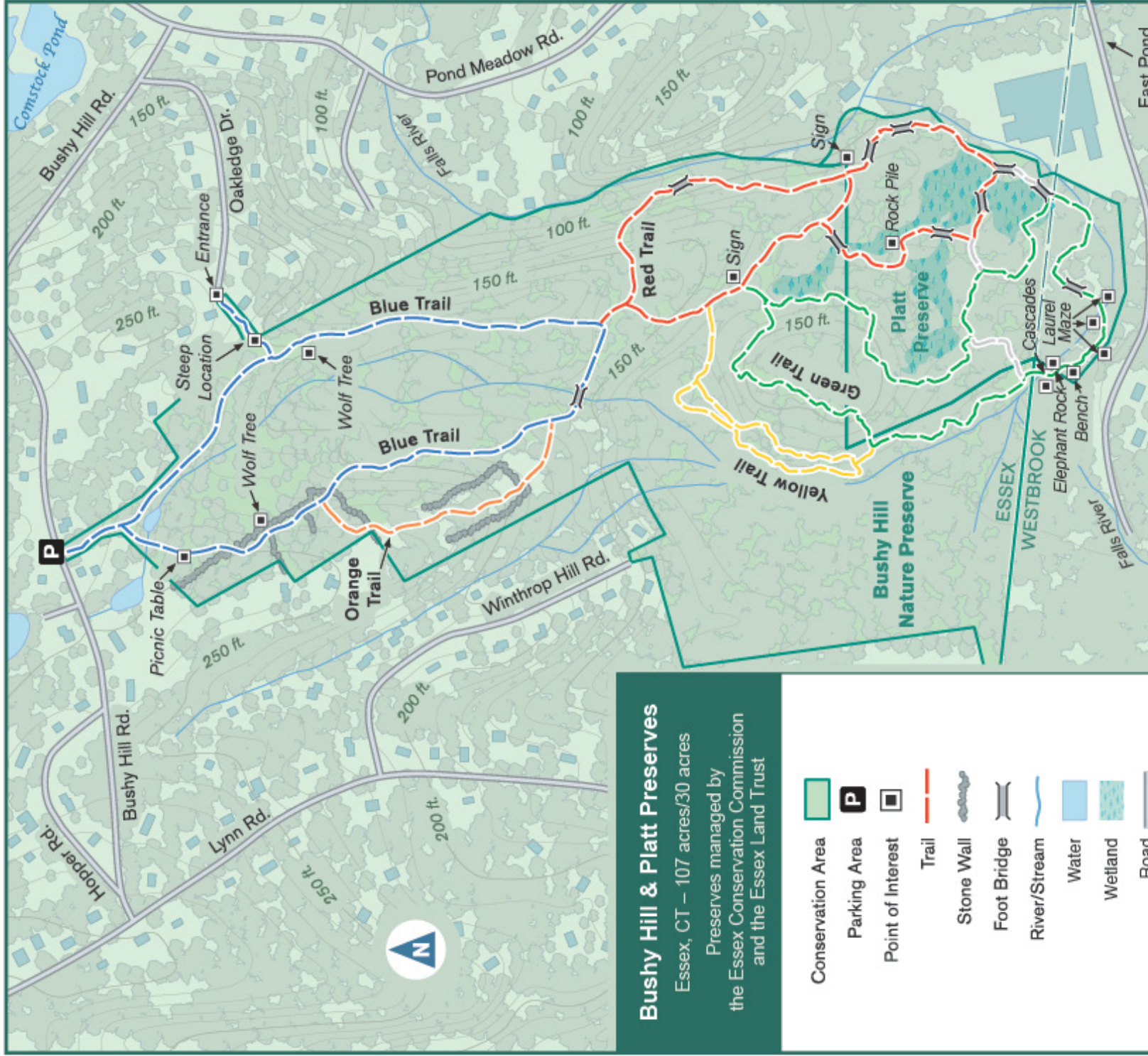
Essex Land Trust

TRAIL MAPS

Bushy Hill & Platt Preserves

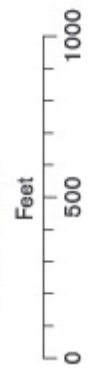


EssexLandTrust.org



Bushy Hill & Platt Preserves
 Essex, CT – 107 acres/30 acres
 Preserves managed by
 the Essex Conservation Commission
 and the Essex Land Trust

- Conservation Area
- Parking Area
- Point of Interest
- Trail
- Stone Wall
- Foot Bridge
- River/Stream
- Water
- Wetland
- Road
- Countour (10 ft. intervals)



June 2005 Source: Essex Land Trust

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- Welcome to Bushy Hill & Platt Preserves**
- 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
 - Kiosks are for land trust use exclusively
 - This map is for general reference use only.