

Pond Meadow

"If we can somehow retain places where we can always sense the mystery of the unknown, our lives will be richer."

— Sigurd F. Olson, *Mystery and the Unknown*

Description: Pond Meadow is an 18-acre parcel of upland forest with a sizable wetland crossing its length. Starting at a 30 ft. bridge spanning a drainage brook that flows from the fire pond to the Falls River, the looping trail proceeds along 450-feet of wooden bog walk, which allows hikers to explore part of the forest heretofore impossible to access. The wooden bridge was built in 2015 by Eagle Scout Dan Ryan, a member of Scout Troop 12.

History: The property was once managed as a series of brush pastures surrounding a wetland. By 1965, the southern and northern pastures appear to have been abandoned, and a mixed hardwood forest began to grow into these areas. There is an unverified story about the area that once in the early 20th century a circus came to town and somehow an elephant got away and was finally apprehended when it was mired in the muck of the wetland.

Flora and Fauna: At least 33 different types of trees have been identified, many of which have identification labels attached to them. Trees found along the trails and the area surrounding the wetland include tulip poplar, American elm, sassafras, beech, birch, ash and four species of oak. Along upland drainages, spicebush, skunk cabbage, and marsh marigold are common. A number of the hardwood trees have been aged at over 100 years old. The understory is composed of witch hazel, highbush blueberry, and azalea. There is a rare American chestnut on the southern end near the old logging road. Multiple oak trees are an energy resource for a wide range of wildlife, including blue jay, wild turkey, eastern chipmunk, gray squirrels, white-tailed deer, and weevils. Birds that nest in deciduous forested swamps include wood ducks, barred owls, downy woodpeckers, tufted titmice, red-eyed vireos, and many warblers. Mallards and black ducks have also been spotted in this area of the Falls River. Mammals seen here include fox, coyote, raccoon, skunk, opossum and fisher cat.

Location: In Ivoryton – on Park Road, off of Walnut Street.



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, Essex Woods & Waters and receive an invitation to our Annual Meeting. Members also receive a calendar of Land Trust events, and email updates. 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
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Essex Land Trust

Caring for Our World Here at Home



Essex Land Trust

TRAIL MAPS

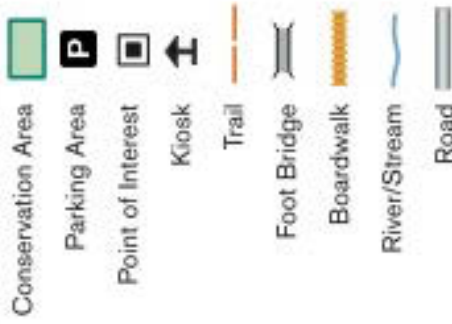
Pond Meadow



EssexLandTrust.org

Pond Meadow

Ivoryton, CT – 18 acres



January 2019
Map: Miro Art Studio - miroart.com Source: Essex Land Trust



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LOCATOR MAP



Welcome to Pond Meadow

- 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

