

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 bogwalk, allowing hikers to explore part of the forest previously impossible to access. The wooden bridge was built in 2015 by Troop 12 Eagle Scout, Dan Ryan.

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 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 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, an energy resource for a wide range of wildlife. 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 witchhazel, highbush blueberry, and azalea. There is a rare American chestnut on the southern end near the old logging road. Nesting birds include Wood Duck, Barred Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Red-eyed Vireos, and many warblers. Mallard and Black Duck have also been spotted in this area of the Falls River. Mammals include Eastern chipmunk, Gray squirrels, White-tailed deer, fox, coyote, raccoon, skunk, opossum, and fisher cat. The forested swamps are home to many amphibians and all kinds of turtles.

Trails and Access Location: Two easy trails represent an 0.8-mile hike. In Ivoryton – on Park Road, off Walnut Street.



Essex Land Trust

Our Mission and Vision

The Essex Land Trust is an all-volunteer environmental conservation organization that acquires, preserves, and manages 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.

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

Founded in 1968 by a group of like-minded individuals, the land trust cooperates with town and state governments and adjacent communities. As a non-profit organization, it relies on the generosity of those who donate land and/or money, or their time to achieve a balance between open space and development in our community.

Join the Essex Land Trust

Membership in the Essex Land Trust is open to all – individuals, families, and organizations. Family Memberships apply to an entire household. Join our more than 460 members and corporate supporters who share your love of the Essex community and want to preserve its open space for future generations.

Join Us!



Giving to the Essex Land Trust

Unrestricted gifts for the general purposes of the land trust can be made at any time. Memorial gifts are always appreciated. Land Acquisition Fund gifts are restricted to the purchase of land or easements and to associated expenses, including surveys and engineering studies.

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 Essex CT 06426

Website: essexlandtrust.org

Email: info@essexlandtrust.org

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



Essex Land Trust
Caring for our world here at home

Essex Land Trust



Pond Meadow

Map & Brochure



Caring for our world here at home

Pond Meadow

Ivoryton, CT – 18 acres

Conservation Area

Parking Area

Point of Interest

Kiosk

Trail

Foot Bridge

Boardwalk

River/Stream

Road

0

100

200

300

Feet

April 2026
Source: Essex Land Trust

Essex Land Trust

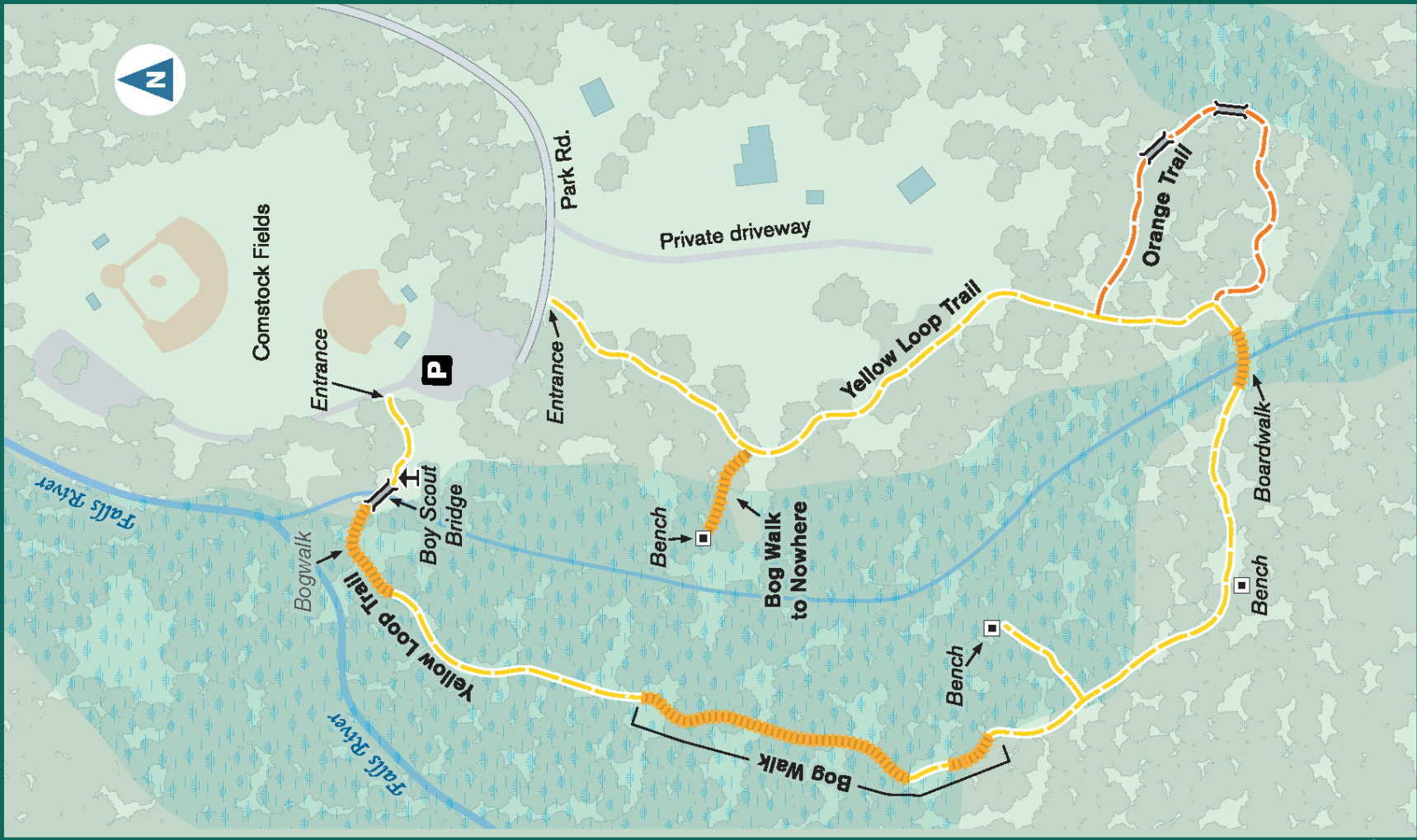
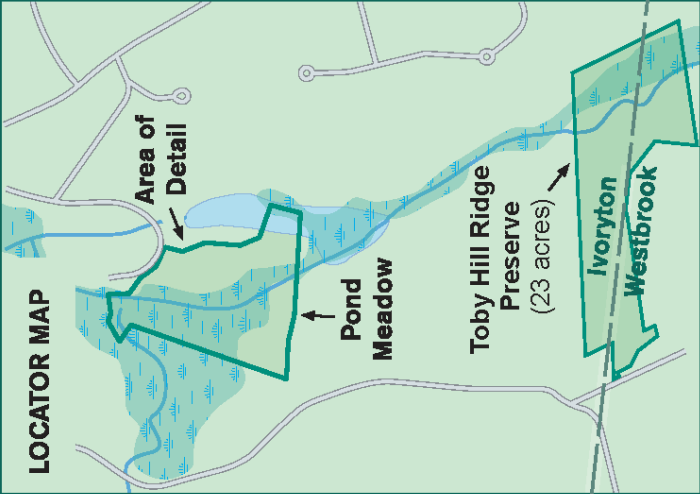
P.O. Box 373

Essex CT 06426

www.essexlandtrust.org

info@essexlandtrust.org

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
- Leave no trace – please carry out what you carry in

- Dogs are welcome but must remain under control of owners. Clean up after your dog
- No fires, hunting, bicycling or motorized vehicles allowed
- Kiosks are for land trust use exclusively
- This map is for general reference use only