

## 2013 ELT Events

Sunday, January 27 3pm at Essex Meadows, 30 Bokum Road

### Raptor Program

"A Place Called Hope" is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, re-nesting and release of birds of prey. Live raptors will be presented at this family program. Co-sponsored by Potapaug Audubon Society. Refreshments will be served. Limited parking so please carpool if possible. Bad weather cancels.

Saturday, February 9 1pm at Falls River Preserve

### Winter Walk: Falls River Preserve & Jean's Island

Naturalist Phil Miller and property steward John Matthiessen will lead groups through this spectacular preserve. If the ice is thick enough, walk to Jean's Island. The event is in conjunction with the Essex Park & Recreation Department's *Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit*. Refreshments, including hot cocoa at nearby residence. Park at the end of Falls River Dr. in Ivoryton. Bad weather cancels.

Sunday, March 10 1pm at Bushy Hill Nature Center

### Family Vernal Pool Walk

Explore early spring vernal pools on this 700-acre preserve led by Nature Center naturalists. Use nets and other tools to identify flora and fauna. Roast marshmallows over the fire after the walk. An *Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit* event. Park adjacent to Incarnation Center on Bushy Hill Rd. Rain or shine.

Thursday, April 4 7pm at St. John's Church, Main St, Essex

### Wild, Weird and Wonderful Mushrooms

Naturalist, environmental educator and mushroom expert Bill Yule will discuss these amazing fungi. Some are edible, some are deadly, some are beautiful, and others are ugly. Co-sponsored by Potapaug Audubon Society. Refreshments served. Bad weather cancels.

Saturday, April 6 9am - 12N at Cross Lots, 40 West Ave

### Essex Land Trust Property Spruce-Up

Help restore and maintain our beautiful preserves after winter. Pick up brush and debris, rake, clear trails and streams. Make this a family outing. Meet at Cross Lots (40 West Ave., Essex) for your assignment. Refreshments served. Park on West Ave. or Town Hall. Rain or shine.

Monday, April 22 5:30pm at Essex Meadows, 30 Bokum Rd

### Essex Land Trust Annual Meeting

All are welcome to attend ELT's annual meeting. There is a charge for the buffet (5:30-6:30), but the business meeting that follows is free. Members automatically receive invitations. Non-members who wish to attend please contact Peggy Tuttle (860-767-7916, [peggytuttle@gmail.com](mailto:peggytuttle@gmail.com)). Former ELT president, Chet Arnold, will speak about Low Impact Development. Please carpool if possible.

Saturday, April 27 9am - 12pm at Cross Lots, 40 West Ave

### Second Annual Arbor Day Celebration

Join us in planting new trees and shrubs at Cross Lots and other open spaces in town. Learn from demonstrations and family-friendly activities. All ages and abilities are welcome. An *Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit* event. Refreshments served. Park on West Ave. or at Town Hall. Rain or shine.

Wednesday, May 15 2pm at Essex Meadows, 30 Bokum Road

### Essex Meadows Trail Walk

ELT president Jim Denham will lead an easy one-hour stroll through Essex Meadows' beautiful gardens and wildflower meadows. Enjoy refreshments after the walk. Signs will direct to parking at the facility. Carpool if possible. Bad weather cancels.

Saturday, May 25 2pm at Falls River Park, Ivoryton

### Family Canoe / Kayak on Mill Pond

Spend part of Memorial Day weekend paddling with naturalist Phil Miller. Jean's Island will be a possible stop. Open to paddlers of all ages, but basic experience is required. An *Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit* event. Park at the canoe/kayak launch on Falls River Dr. Bad weather cancels.

Sunday, June 2 4 - 6pm at Cross Lots, 40 West Ave

### Family Walk, Picnic and Concert

Join Cross Lots property stewards Al Macgregor and Fred Szufnarowski as they lead groups through the 16-acre preserve in the heart of Essex. Bring a picnic, blanket and chairs and find a spot on the hill. At 5pm you'll enjoy the Essex Corinthian Jazz Band. The Land Trust will also unveil an updated plaque of major donors. This event is part of CT Trails Day and the *Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit*. Park on West Ave. or at Town Hall. Bad weather cancels.

Wednesday, June 26 5:30pm at Pettipaug Yacht Club

### Snakes of Connecticut

Kim Hargrave of Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center in Mystic will present a program on local snakes, their habitats, diet and roles in the shoreline ecosystem. She will have LIVE specimens to see and touch. The event is part of the *Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit* and is co-sponsored by Potapaug Audubon Society. BYO picnic to enjoy after the talk. PYC is located on the dirt road between #143 and #145 River Rd. in Essex. Come rain or shine.

Sunday, July 14 10am - 1pm at Cross Lots, 40 West Ave

### Geocaching 101

Go treasure hunting with Jim Lockhart and Kathy Katz. Participants navigate to a set of GPS coordinates and try to find the hidden container at that location (at Cross Lots and other spots close to town). Anyone new to geocaching can attend an orientation/demo presented hourly at 10am, 11am and 12 noon. Refreshments served. Park at Cross Lots or Town Hall. Come rain or shine.



Tuesday, August 13 3pm at Bushnell St. River Access

### Canoe / Kayak Around Nott Island

Hop into your canoe or kayak for a 2-hour excursion from North Cove in Essex around Nott Island on the eastern side of the CT River. This paddle will be led by naturalist Phil Miller and is limited to experienced paddlers only. A safety boat will accompany the group to ensure safe passage. Park at the Bushnell St shoreline access point. Registration begins at 3pm for a prompt departure at 3:30pm. High winds or bad weather cancels.

Saturday, September 7 1pm at Platt Preserve

### Mushroom / Nature Photography Walk

Jeff Sims, award-winning amateur nature photographer, will lead a 2-hour walk at Bushy Hill and Platt Preserves to photograph mushrooms and other intriguing natural flora and fauna. If possible, bring a macro lens and tripod capable of opening up flat. Property steward Ron Nelson will help guide us through the preserves. Park at the Bushy Hill Rd. entrance in Ivoryton. Bad weather cancels.

Saturday, September 28 9am - 12pm at Great Meadows

### Source To Sea Annual River Cleanup

Join the annual cleanup of the rivers, streams and banks that make up the Connecticut River system from Canada to Old Saybrook. This event is coordinated by the CT River Watershed Council. All ages, abilities and organizations are welcome. Meet at Essex Boat Club (dirt road access between #143 and #145 River Rd.) for your assignment. Refreshments served. Come rain or shine.

Saturday, October 5 10am at Canfield Woods Nature Preserve

### Canfield Woods Hike

Stewards Frank Hall and Dana Hill will lead a family hike on Essex Land Trust's beautiful Canfield Meadow Woods Preserve. Trek to a newly created scenic viewing area engineered as part of an Eagle Scout project. From this vista at the highest point in Essex, folks can see Long Island and more. Park at the Book Hill Woods Rd. cul-de-sac. Bad weather cancels.

Saturday, October 19 7:30am, Register at Ivoryton Village Green

### 4th Annual Run Local / Read Local

This 5k Run/Walk benefits the Ivoryton Library and begins nearby. It meanders through beautiful Ivoryton village and the Land Trust's Falls River Preserve. An *Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit* event. Prizes awarded in many categories. Runners 8 and under are given medals and pumpkins to paint. Park in designated lots. Come rain or shine.

Saturday, November 23 9am - 12pm at Cross Lots, 40 West Ave

### Cross Lots Raking Extravaganza

Join the last-of-the-season Land Trust outing. We'll make the preserve look beautifully clean for winter. Rake, blow, mulch and bag all those leaves with us! Refreshments served. Park on West Ave. or at Town Hall. Rain date: Sunday, November 24 at 1:30pm.

## Essex Land Trust

P.O. Box 373, Essex CT 06426



### Our Mission

The Essex Land Trust acquires open space by gift or purchase in order to protect the environment, to preserve the small town character of Essex and to provide the community with passive recreational and educational opportunities. The Land Trust conserves wildlife habitats, forests, fields, rivers, wetlands and scenic views by maintaining properties in a natural state now and forever.

The Essex Land Trust is an independent, non-profit organization supported by donations and managed by volunteers. Anyone who would like to be on our volunteer roster should contact our volunteer coordinator Nancy Rambeau at 860-767-1523 or email [nmcram@comcast.net](mailto:nmcram@comcast.net).

For more information about the Essex Land Trust and these events, please visit our website at [www.essexlandtrust.org](http://www.essexlandtrust.org) or email [Essexlandtrust@comcast.net](mailto:Essexlandtrust@comcast.net)



The Essex Land Trust 2013 Annual Events and Activities Calendar is supported by a grant from The Rockfall Foundation, Middletown, CT.



### Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit

The Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit has been created by the Town of Essex Park and Recreation Department. The program's purpose is to bring Essex families together through positive, healthy outdoor endeavors while increasing awareness of our local parks, open spaces and preserves. The Essex Land Trust is pleased to be a co-sponsor of this program.

*Printing of Essex Land Trust Events & Activities is generously supported by the Essex Printing Company*



Essex Printing Company  
Centerbrook, CT 06409  
860 767 9087  
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Essex CT 06426  
860 581 8064  
[www.hainesdesign.com](http://www.hainesdesign.com)

## Essex Land Trust



# Events & Activities for 2013

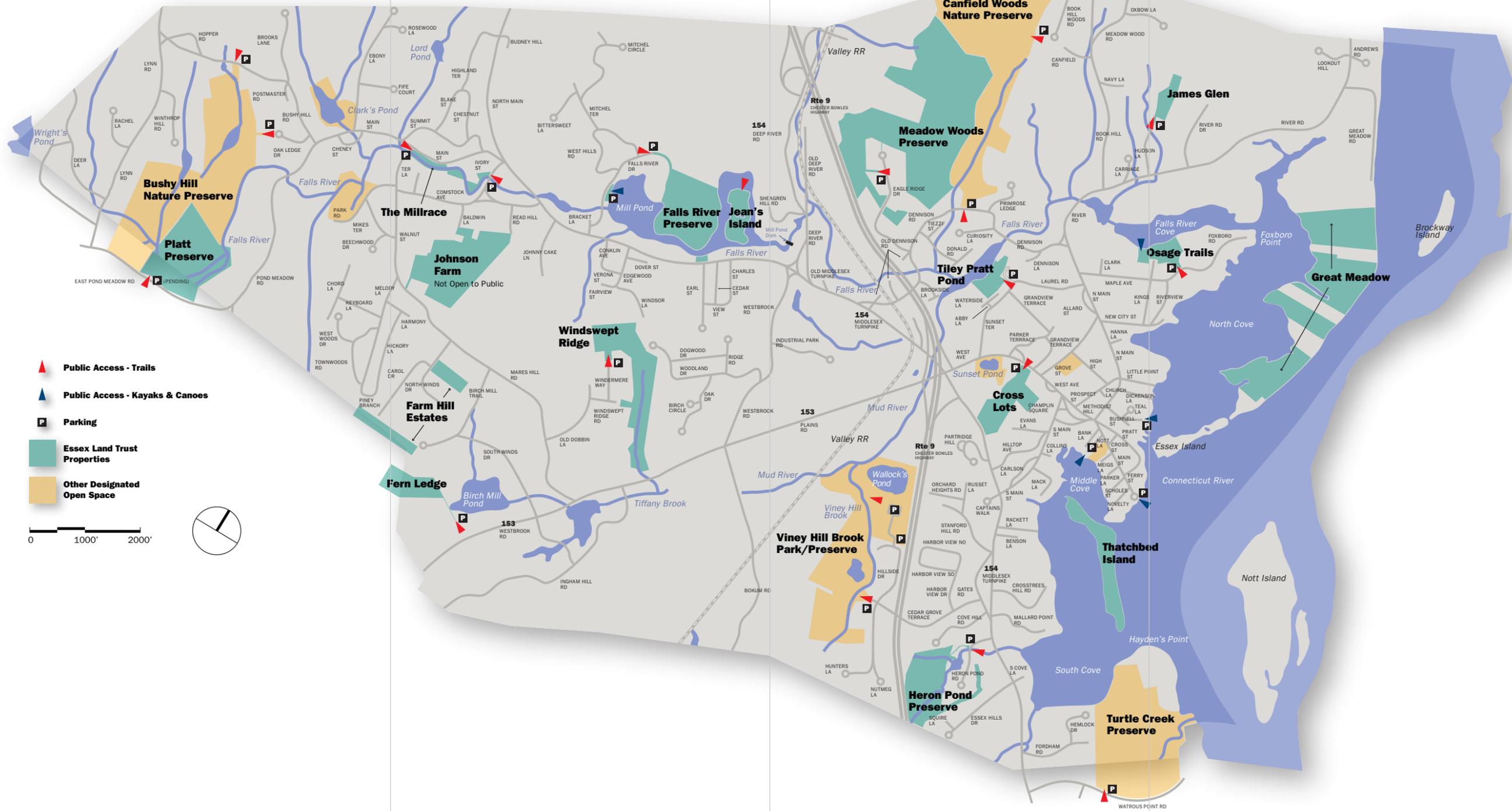


[www.essexlandtrust.org](http://www.essexlandtrust.org)



# Town of Essex Open Space Properties

- 1 Bushy Hill Nature Preserve**  
107 acres of hilly terrain with extensive hiking trails owned by the Town of Essex. The area is a heavily forested former pasture land. Access: off Bushy Hill Road, Ivoryton.
- 2 Platt Preserve**  
This 30-acre preserve was acquired by the Land Trust in 2007. Bordering with Bushy Hill, it extends southward encompassing a stretch of the upper Falls River. Access: East Pond Meadow Road, Ivoryton.
- 3 Millrace Preserve**  
6 acres along the Falls River between Walnut and Ivory Streets in Ivoryton. Access: corner of Walnut and Main Streets.
- 4 Johnson Farm**  
A working farm, this 42-acre property is not open to the public. Development rights have been acquired by the Essex Land Trust.
- 5 Farm Hill Estates**  
8 acres of wetlands and fields, in two parcels. Access: Northwinds Drive and Carol Drive.
- 6 Fern Ledge**  
10 acres of high ledge and woodland with hiking trails. Access: Route 153, behind left side of Shoreline Clinic.
- 7 Falls River Preserve**  
41 wooded acres with 3,300 feet of waterfront on the Falls River. Ideal for hiking. Access: end of Falls River Drive off Main Street, Ivoryton. Also includes kayak/canoe landing and park on Falls River Drive.
- 8 Jean's Island**  
7 acres in Mill Pond on the Falls River. Marked trails and kayak/canoe landing. Launch from park on Falls River Drive.
- 9 Windswept Ridge**  
30 acres of hilly woodlands with hiking trail. Access: Windermere Way off Mares Hill Road and Old Dobbin Lane.
- 10 Canfield-Meadow Woods Nature Preserve**  
300 acres of woodlands (ELT owns 131 acres; Towns of Essex and Deep River own the rest). Ideal for hiking with extensive, well-marked trails. Accesses: Eagle Ridge Drive off Dennison Road (in ELT parking area or in cul-de-sac); Book Hill Woods Road; Dennison Road. Maps available at latter two entrances.
- 11 Tiley-Pratt Pond Preserve**  
8 wooded acres with 650 feet of waterfront and a trail overlooking the pond. Access: Unnamed lane off Laurel Road just north of intersection with Grandview Terrace. Look for ELT markers.
- 12 Cross Lots**  
16 acres in the center of Essex. Extends from a hilltop park through fields to a large dogwood grove fronting on Route 154. Mowed walking trails. Access: 40 West Avenue, across from the Essex Library.



- 13 Viney Hill Brook Park**  
104 acres, 74 designated as open space and 30 developed for active recreation, including public swimming. Owned by the Town of Essex. Access: end of Hillside Drive.
- 14 James Glen**  
4-acre wooded ravine with creek and rock outcroppings. Marked hiking trail. Access: end of Hudson Lane off River Road.
- 15 Osage Trails (the Elizabeth Callender Preserve)**  
8 acres of lawn, meadow, forest and wetlands fronting on Falls River Cove. Easily accessible trails and areas for picnicking. Access: off Foxboro Road.
- 16 Thatchedbed Island**  
3 acres of brackish wetland separating South Cove and the Connecticut River. Popular shorebird habitat. Access: none. May be viewed from the mainland or from watercraft.
- 17 Turtle Creek Preserve**  
92 forested acres fronting on both South Cove and the Connecticut River. Well-marked trails. Noted for spring wildflowers. Owned by The Nature Conservancy. Access: off Watrous Point Road in Old Saybrook.
- 18 Great Meadow**  
56 scattered acres of a 174-acre bar in the Connecticut River, also fronting on North Cove. Primarily composed of brackish wetland in the south and freshwater marsh in the north. No public access.
- 19 Heron Pond Preserve**  
29 acres of forested hills, valleys, streams and hiking trails. Access: Heron Pond Road off Route 154.

### Essex Land Trust Trail Guide

The Essex Land Trust's Trail Guide is a 40 page, full color, pocket sized booklet featuring all of the Essex Land Trust properties, in addition to those managed by the Town of Essex and The Nature Conservancy. Each property has a detailed map showing the different trails and points of interest. Also included is a property description, a capsule summary of its history and notable flora and fauna, property pictures and details on location and access. All Essex Land Trust members receive a free copy of the Trail Guide as memberships are initiated. The trail guide will also be available for sale at selected local retail outlets for \$15.00.

