



WELCOME TO CANFIELD-MEADOW WOODS NATURE PRESERVE

Canfield-Meadow Woods is a natural area encompassing over 300 acres of ridges, valley wetlands, and mixed woods in the towns of Deep River and Essex. The diversity of the terrain provides for a wide variety of interesting habitat. The preserve has been developed and is managed by the Deep River Conservation Commission, the Essex Conservation Commission, and the Essex Land Conservation Trust. The land was acquired through donation by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Canfield in 1968 and through later purchases and gifts, along with federal open space funds.

The purpose of the preserve is to keep intact our natural heritage for now and for the future, by ensuring diversity and protecting resident plants and animals.

The preserve is open to the public for walking. It is not a playground, hunting area, bike path, or campground. This is a place where humans may enjoy native plants and animals without altering or disturbing their habitat. It is basically a wilderness, a natural and unspoiled patch of earth that will, with your help, remain alive and intact.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

The area is heavily wooded, with many exceptional outcroppings of rock. Some of these are referenced on the map. There are wetlands in several places. The major stream in the Essex area is crossed by four footbridges at various points just off Canfield Trail. This stream flows north to south. There are old woods roads and stone walls, constructed many years ago to delineate pasture land. There are remains of a stone quarry in the Deep River section. Book Hill (B) is the highest point in the preserve and is identified by a geodetic marker at 315 feet above sea level.

PLANTS AND ANIMALS

The older forest is filled with oak, hickory, hemlock, birch, beech, tulip and ash trees. The Deep River area has a fair-sized white spruce population near the railroad. Red maples dominate wet areas and younger stretches are full of red cedar, dogwood, and black cherry trees. Part of the land is being used for an experiment to re-establish the once-common American chestnut tree. The wet area understory features spicebush, sweet pepper bush, cinnamon fern and skunk cabbage. Drier areas have abundant multiflora rose, mountain laurel, various ferns, and wildflowers such as violets, Solomon's seals, occasional lady slippers and Indian pipes. Fungi abound in late summer.

The common mammals who make their home at Canfield-Meadow Woods are white-tailed deer, gray fox, red fox, raccoon, opossum, gray squirrel, chipmunk and white-footed and deer mice. Woodpeckers, cardinals, jays, chickadees, grouse, mourning doves, and titmice are found here all year. Springtime brings in warblers, native sparrows, thrushes, vireos, and flycatchers. Hawks and owls have also been seen and heard.

VISITING THE PRESERVE

You are welcome to walk in Canfield-Meadow Woods during daylight hours. Since this area is a nature preserve and certain guidelines are posted to protect the area, please cooperate.

ENTRANCES

Book Hill Woods Road, Essex

Take North Main Street from Essex town center to River Road; turn left on Book Hill Road. Book Hill Woods Road is about a mile beyond this; the second turn to the left.

Dennison Road, Essex

About midway between North Main Street and Route 9 overpass. (LIMITED PARKING)

Eagle Ridge Drive, Essex

Off Dennison Road near Route 9 overpass.

Route 154, Deep River

Between the Essex town line and Rattling Valley Road, Deep River.

NOTE: All entrances are identified on the reverse side map.

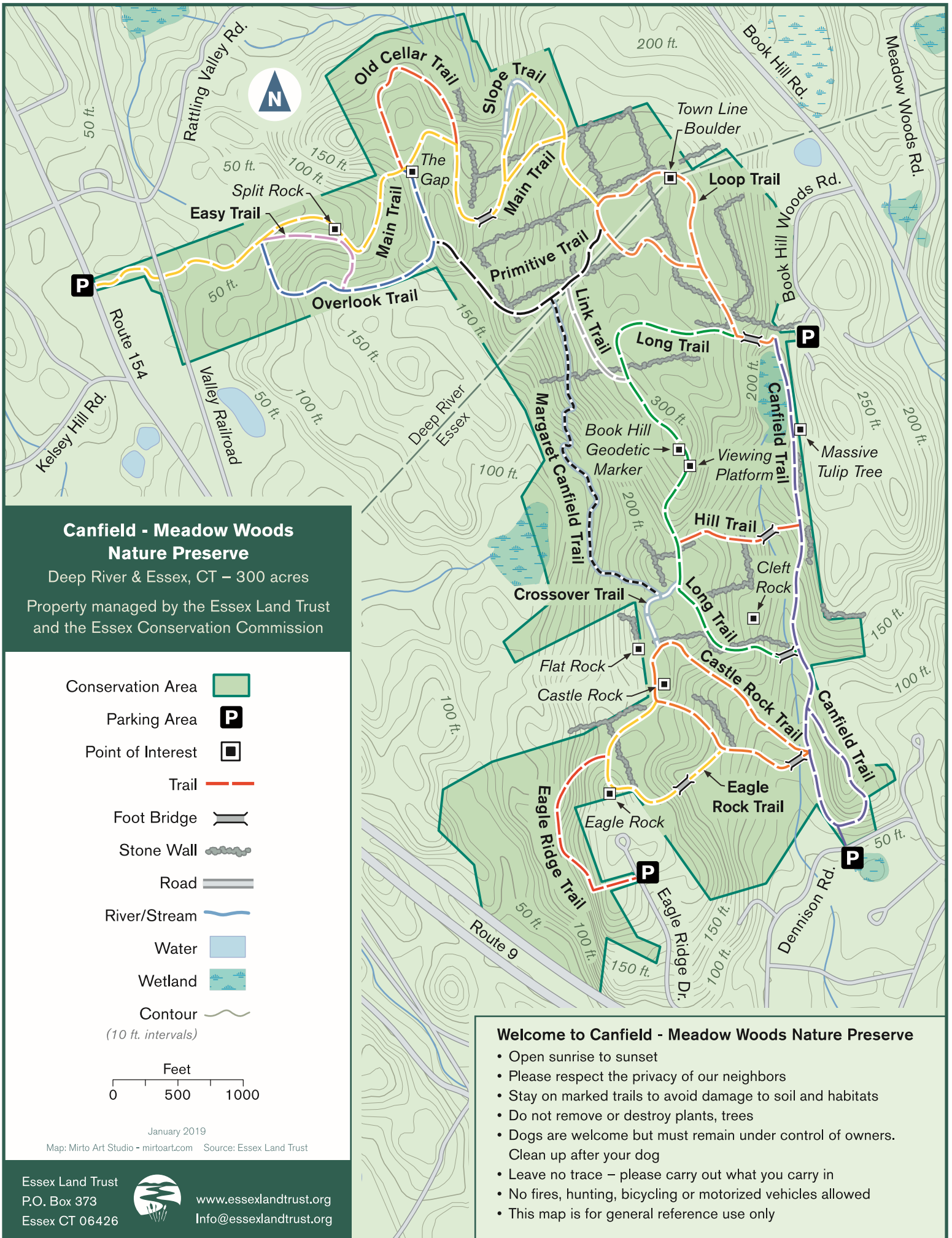
THE MAP

It identifies compass points, the scale, some distinctive landmarks entrances, streams, and wetlands. At the north end of the map you will see the essentially east-to-west town line. All trails are blazed with a color code and have either a number or a name. In Deep River each inter-section has its own letter designator enclosed in a triangle.

SOME SUGGESTIONS AND CAUTIONS

The trails are well identified. If the area is new to you, be conscious of landmarks as you proceed. Plan well to avoid darkness while still in the woods. Watch for slippery conditions in muddy, snowy, and freezing weather.

If you sense you are lost, pause, take a few deep breaths, and consider some things, that might guide you to "civilization": for example, the lay of the land; the position of the sun, the flow of a stream (follow the flow); human sounds (traffic on Routes 9 and 154, which essentially are west of the nature area).

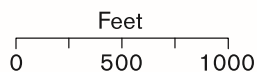


Canfield - Meadow Woods Nature Preserve

Deep River & Essex, CT – 300 acres

Property managed by the Essex Land Trust and the Essex Conservation Commission

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



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Map: Mirto Art Studio - mirtoart.com Source: Essex Land Trust

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Welcome to Canfield - Meadow Woods Nature Preserve

- 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