

A Walking Guide to Hampton's Open Space

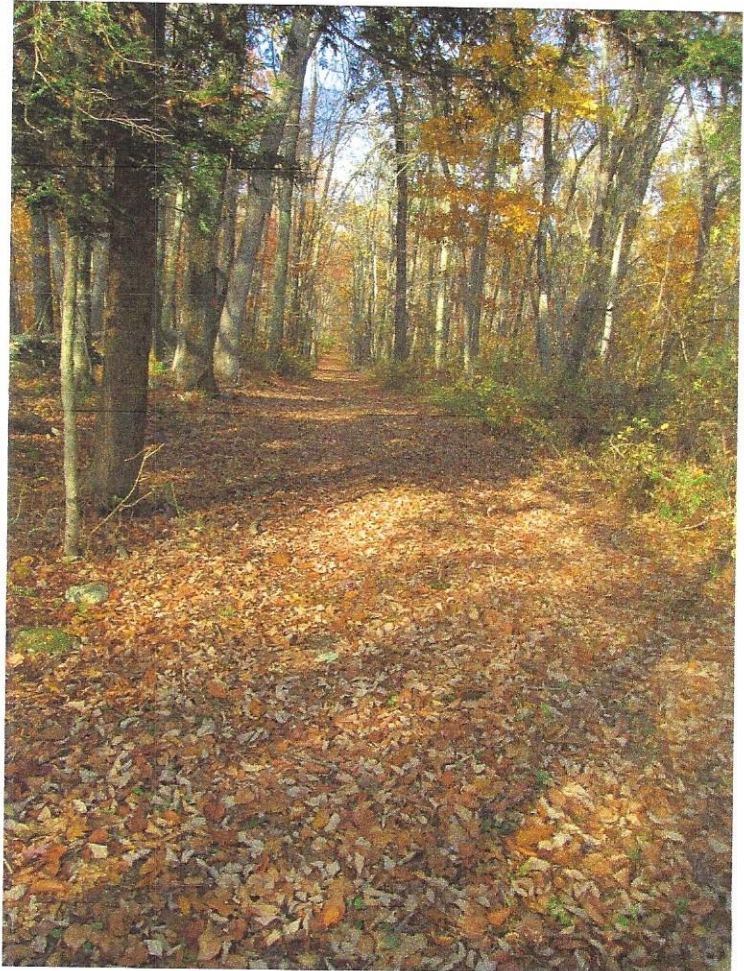
Hampton is blessed with an abundance of natural beauty. From rolling pastures to scenic streams and rivers to stone walls and other historic and archaeological features, our small town has it all! We invite you to explore some of the places you didn't know about—and some you've been to and want to visit again.

The Town of Hampton, in conjunction with the **Hampton Conservation Commission**, owns and maintains several properties in town; others are owned and maintained by various land trusts and private organizations. Links are provided to online trail maps and informational sites.

This guide **is a work in progress** and will be continually updated as information is added/corrected, new parcels are added and/or cleared for trails, and new photos uploaded.

If you have great photos of any of these sites, please share them with us! Email the HCC Secretary at pennynewbury@gmail.com.

We hope you find this guide useful. Please let us know if you have questions, comments, or additions—we'd love to hear them!



Your Friends at the
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Hampton Town Hall
164 Main St., Hampton, CT 06247
(860) 455-9132 ext. 2 (Town Clerk) or visit us online at www.hamptonct.org

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Blue Flag Meadow Field

Blue Flag Meadow is a 25-acre parcel with a relatively flat, well-marked, red-blazed trail that wanders through pastures and woodlands. The trail loops around a small pond and affords many scenic vistas that can be appreciated at any time, but especially in the early morning or early evening. The 1.2 mile looped trail can easily be completed in less than an hour in comfortable walking shoes. Halfway across the pond there is a bench, which allows for a relaxing rest while watching and listening to the varied wildlife that calls the pond its home.



Managed by the Wolf Den Land Trust, the trail is located on Kenyon Road, 2.1 miles from Route 97 going north. There is ample parking on the side of the road. Follow the looped trail clockwise or



counterclockwise. In either direction the last portion of the walk will be slightly uphill.

NOTE: The main meadow is currently being cleared of dead trees and brush; signage at the gate gives a detailed explanation of this important maintenance activity.

Rad Ostby Memorial Forest

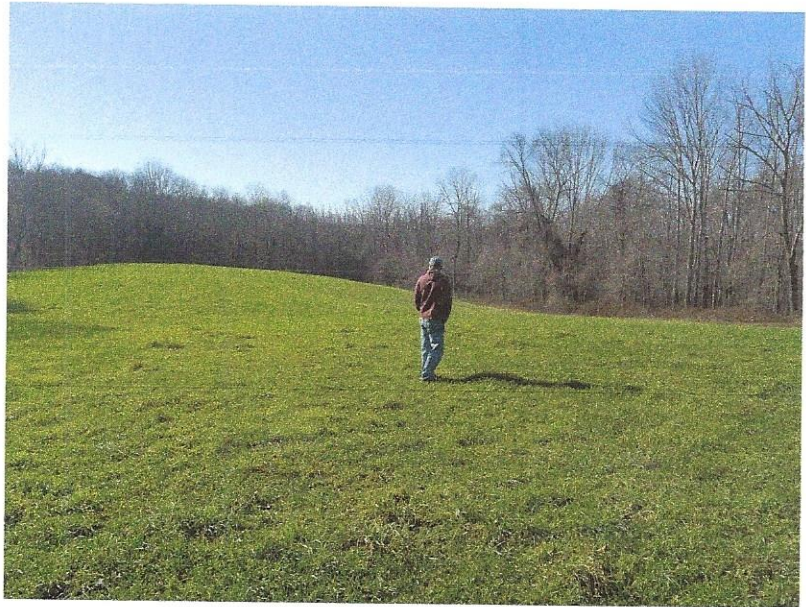
This scenic, well marked orange-blazed trail, 1.3 miles in length, provides not only many opportunities for observing nature but also allows one to see the past effects of man's development within that natural world. The trail contains varied woodlands that pass through stone walls, foundations, old wells and stone bridges. The trail is easily hiked with comfortable walking shoes. In approximately one mile the trail passes through wet areas, especially in the springtime. Follow the well-marked trail to Sarah Pearl Road. Take a left on this road and after 100 yards re-enter the woods for an enjoyable trek back to Old Route 6.

The trail is located on Old Route 6, one-half mile west of Route 6 and 3 miles east of the intersection of Bigelow Road and Old Route 6. There is parking on the side of the road. Be sure to sign the register at the entrance to the trail.



Preston Preserve

Owned and maintained by Joshua's Trust, this slightly less than 1-mile walk is a little-known jewel in Hampton but provides many opportunities to enjoy the natural beauty of our area in less than 45 minutes. The well marked trail quickly enters a rolling pasture, and the trail is best enjoyed if you follow the signs and walk at a slight angle to the North End of the pasture and enter the forest where marked. The yellow marked trail trends downward to, then abuts the Little River. This area is fairly close to the start of the Little River, and the beauty of the Little River at this point is quickly realized. There is even a bench on the river, which allows a bit of relaxation before heading back. The trail then departs the Little River and travels through varied woodlands and new forest and ascends back to the pasture. Cross the pasture to the place of beginning.



The Preston Preserve is located on Route 97, approximate 3 miles north from the Center of Town directly adjacent to Kimball Hill Road. There is ample parking on the side of Route 97. Click [here](#) to see the trail map.

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Jericho Road

There are many old roads in Hampton that once provided access to areas that have since been “abandoned” or “discontinued” and no longer maintain vehicular traffic. These roads now provide great opportunities to explore on foot Hampton’s natural beauty and past development. One of the best of these roads in Hampton is Jericho Road. Formerly called Sharpe Road (Sharpe Hill Vineyards is close by), it starts at the northerly end of Kimball Hill Road travels approximately .9 miles to Windy Hill Road. Surrounded by and adjacent to many stone walls, the road is still quite open and passable; conscientious neighbors keep it cleared and periodically remove fallen logs. It cuts through varied woodlands and offers scenic vistas. It’s fairly flat, through sometimes after a rain there is runoff in



some spots that you may have to maneuver around. It’s actually a great running road. You can start from either Windy Hill Rd. or Kimball Hill Rd. If you start from Kimball Hill Road, traveling from Rt. 97 look for telephone pole #690 on the right; it starts right after that. Turn into Jericho Road and park there. If you start from the end of Windy Hill Road, 1 mile from the intersection with North Bigelow Road, Jericho Road is directly to your left. There is plenty of parking at the cul-de-sac on Windy Hill Road.

Note: To either side of Jericho Road is private property. You will see many NO TRESPASSING signs at the beginning of the road at the end of Windy Hill (although about 200 feet in you can also see the round Hampton Conservation Commission sign). Please respect the rights of the adjacent property owners and **do not venture off the road.** Keep dogs on a leash at all times and pick up after them. You should be able to walk this scenic round trip in under an hour.

Addendum: At the Kimball Hill end of Jericho Road the Town of Hampton owns approximately 20 acres that it acquired through tax foreclosure many years ago. There is an old path at the beginning of Jericho road off to the left that leads to the middle of the property, which was originally going to be a 5-lot subdivision. The Conservation Commission is currently exploring the possibility of marking its boundaries and opening it up for hiking as well.

And as long as you're in the neighborhood . . .

Windy Hill Road Extension

The asphalt ends at the cul de sac at the "end" of Windy Hill road, but the road itself goes on unpaved to Brooklyn. Park at the cul de sac and straight ahead the road is quite visible, and it's an easy and pleasant 1-mile walk from one end to the other. Two trees have fallen across the road but they can be skirted around. This is an interesting road, notable for the many old foundations and stone "pounds" along the way. On the left hand side is also the site of the old Boy Scout Camp. The road is bounded by 60 acres of Town-owned open space to the south (roughly a square shape lot) and 5.7 acres (long and skinny, following the road) to the north. These properties have not been marked for trails. Watch for the boundary markers so you don't venture onto private property.

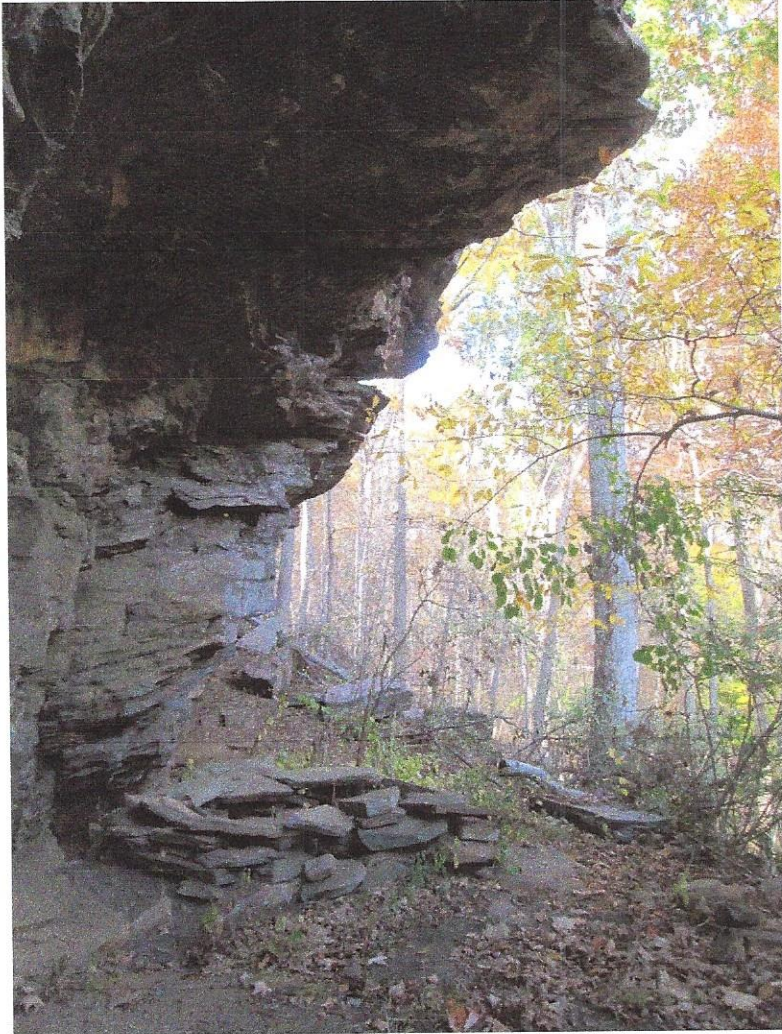


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South Bigelow. Thanks to the generosity of the owner of a 39-acre tract of land spanning between the two roads, approximately 1.5 acres was deeded to the Town in 2008 for use as open space to preserve public access to, and a vista of, the most prominent and dramatic of the ledges. A short walk down a path maintained and marked by the Hampton Conservation Commission** offers visitors an up-close look at an important Nipmuc over-wintering area, and the location of the events surrounding the mysterious case of Elizabeth Shaw in the late 1700's. (Rush to the Historical Society and find out more.) The trailhead is located on Route 97; from Route 6 it is on the left-hand side of the road, right after and adjacent to # 672 Pudding Hill Rd. Park sensibly and look carefully to see the green and white HCC markers and pink tape on the trees.

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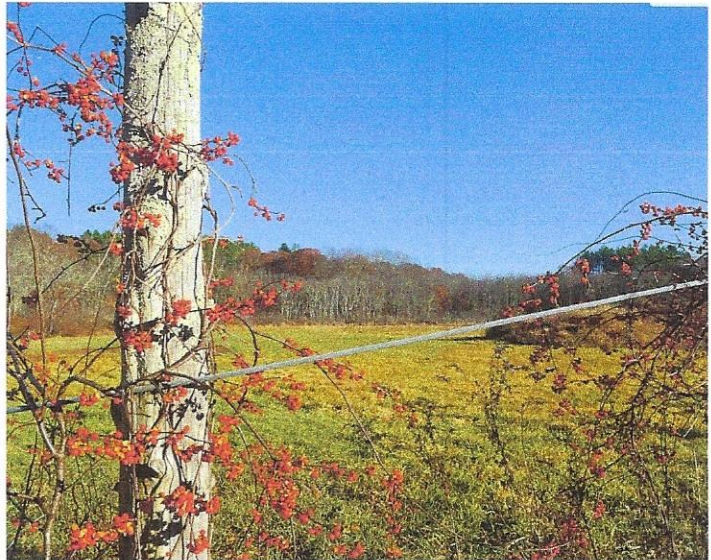


The Hammond Hill/Little River Preserve

Hampton's newest acquisition, this beautiful 52-acre tract lies at the bottom of Hammond Hill and is bisected by the Little River. It's hoped that in the spring of 2021 the DPW will be able to clear the dense overgrowth that now borders the river so that walkers can explore the river's edge. At the moment, that section of the property is impassable. However, the majority of the property is comprised of beautiful rolling fields that are hayed and mowed regularly, and a walk along the edge of the fields is something not to be missed. Entrance to the tract, coming from Route 97 down Hammond Hill, is on the right before the bridge that crosses the Little River. Park in front of the gate.

Note: There is still a NO TRESPASSING sign on the gate but this is indeed Town property. The gate is locked and currently you have to slip under the fence wire to your left. **Plans**

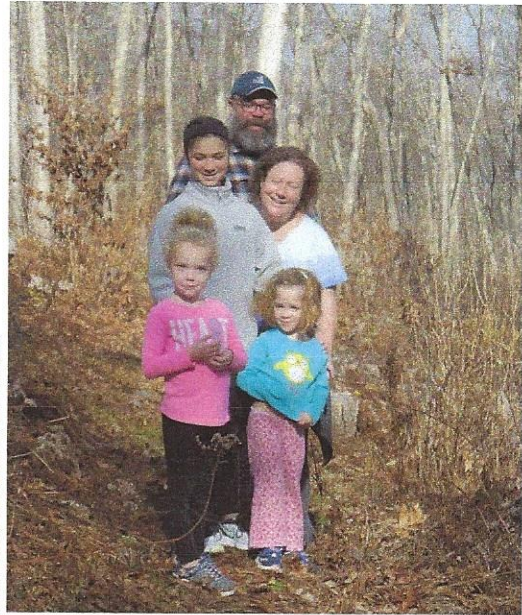
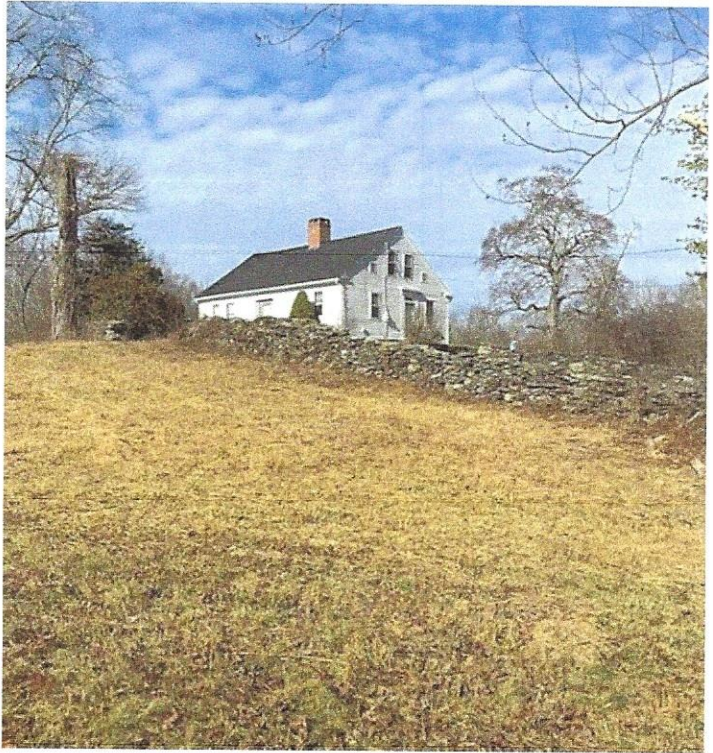
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Directions: Take Rt 97 north to Kenyon Road; Trail Wood is #93, about one mile up on the left. Park in the first lot on your left. There's a kiosk with a map, which you can also view [here](#).



pudding Hill Woods

The 170-acre Pudding Hill Woods Preserve was purchased by the Town in 2014 to create additional open space and recreational opportunities south of Route 6, and also to protect one of the last remaining large tracts on Pudding Hill (Rt. 97).

The preserve does not yet have any formal or marked trails, although **it is used frequently by hunters**



so many narrow trails can be found. (During those seasons, remember to wear bright orange and keep dogs on a leash). The property is also mainly flat and level, contains many different hardwood species and some wetlands, and provides the explorer with a **great opportunity to venture into areas that have seen little disturbance in 100 years.**

The preserve is located on Route 97, approximately 1 mile south of the intersection with Route 6. Look for the black and gold sign, low to the ground, on the right.

The Warren Stone Preserve

Warren Stone was a prominent Hampton resident, well known for his altruism and love of preservation of natural resources. He was named Hampton's Citizen of the Year in 2007.

Donated to the Joshua's Trust Conservation and Historic District in 2010 by his estate, the 19-acre Warren Stone Preserve forms an important part of a local watershed that is dominated by the Cedar Swamp Brook, a feeder to the Little River that feeds into the Shetucket River.

To the north of Route 6 in Hampton, this brook rises as a wetland in the Goodwin State Forest, and it widens into a marsh to the south of Route 6 as a result of beaver damming. The visitor has many opportunities to see wood duck, kingfishers and osprey.

From the western edge of the marsh, land slopes upwards to an old wooden road.

The two acres between the marsh and the road are covered in an oak over-story and a witch hazel understory. Sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) and highbush blueberry can be found directly next to the marsh.

The southern portion of the marsh is dominated by *phragmites* and cattails. The rest of the marsh is clear and deep enough to attract osprey, while the shallow and shrubby edges host great blue heron, wood duck, and belted kingfisher. Black duck and painted turtles have also been spotted around the marsh.

East of the marsh lies an oak-beech forest. A knoll that runs north-south through the middle of the uplands is surrounded by a U-shaped path. Downy woodpecker, red-eyed vireo, and yellow-rumped warbler can be found among the hemlocks that lie between the wooded road and the marsh.

Access the trail map [here](#).

The preserve is located at 50 Fisk Road in Hampton. Please note that Fisk Road is not paved. Rocks, large potholes and wet spots along West Fisk Road have limited vehicular access. We recommend 4-wheel-drive vehicles with good ground clearance—or, park at the beginning of Fisk Road and walk the short distance to the entrance. Visitors will see a sign marking the preserve entrance to the half-mile long U-shaped path. There is also a short spur path marked to view the beaver dam.

[information courtesy of the Joshua's Trust website: <https://joshuastrust.org/warren-stone-preserve/>]



George and Margaret Hemphill Woods

Donated by Laurie, Clara and Thomas Hemphill in 2012 and maintained by Joshua's Trust, the Hemphill Woods rests on both sides of Old Canterbury Road in Hampton. Located in the Burnham Brook drainage basin, the Woods consist of two parcels that once formed an 18th century farmstead. The original homestead still stands on the east parcel, facing the stone ruins of an outbuilding on the west parcel. The center of the Preserve is dominated by wetland soils.

In the 9.25-acre west parcel, stonewalls are lined by large oaks and Shagbark Hickories with young oaks and hickories covering the interior. A writer's cabin sits on the north edge near mature Big Tooth Aspen, and the western edge boasts a dense understory of Burning Bush. The shrubby undergrowth and wetlands provide a good shelter for wildlife and a nice migrant trap for birds. There is blazed hiking trail on the east parcel about 1.25 miles in length. Please stay on the trail to prevent trespass on neighbors' properties.

In the 34.5-acre east parcel, wetland areas are dense with shrubbery home to the Ovenbird and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. This parcel's outer edges are covered with an oak and hickory forest, while the wetter inner areas contain Yellow Birch and Red Maple. The northeastern part of this parcel is rockier with a number of glacial erratics.

Download the trail map [here](#).

The property is located at 40 Old Canterbury Road. Look for Trust signs on your left and park in the pull-off area on the left.

Also worth exploring in Hampton . . .

The Air Line Trail

An officially designated Greenway in Hampton, this abandoned rail bed cuts through Hampton and has created miles of broad, flat walking paths. One of the finest viewing stretches can be picked up in the Goodwin State Forest on Route 6 near the Chaplin Town Line.



The Goodwin State Forest

Covering more than three square miles, the James L. Goodwin State Forest offers recreation for every season of the year. An extensive variety of trails, including an equestrian trail and the miles-long Air Line Trail, is open from dawn until dusk, 365 days a year. The 135 acre Pine Acres Lake, and the Goodwin Conservation Center combine to make this forest an eastern Connecticut treasure.

The Goodwin Forest web site has great downloadable trail maps, an events calendar, and a comprehensive overview and history of the property.

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/State-Parks/Forests/James-L-Goodwin-State-Forest>

The Forest's main entrance is right off Rt. 6, on the left going north towards Hampton Center.

Note: Check maps and signs for certain trail closures due to danger caused by trees affected by the recent blight.

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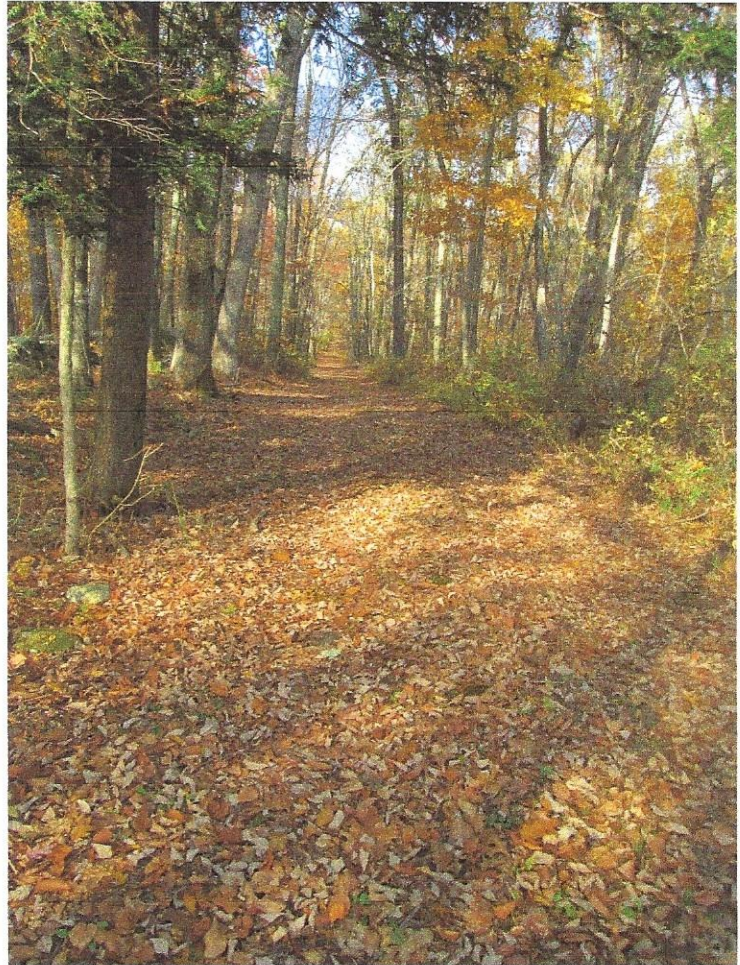
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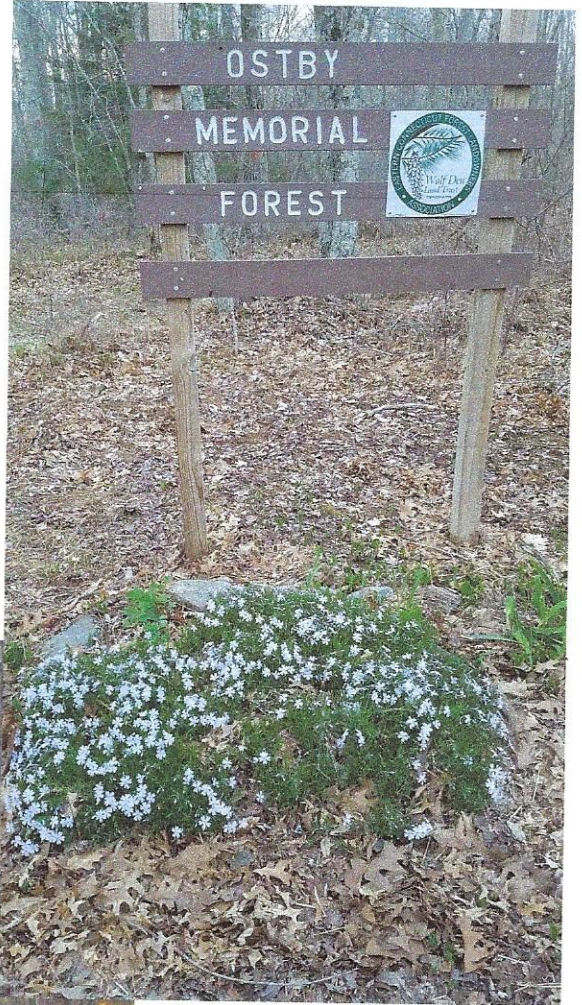
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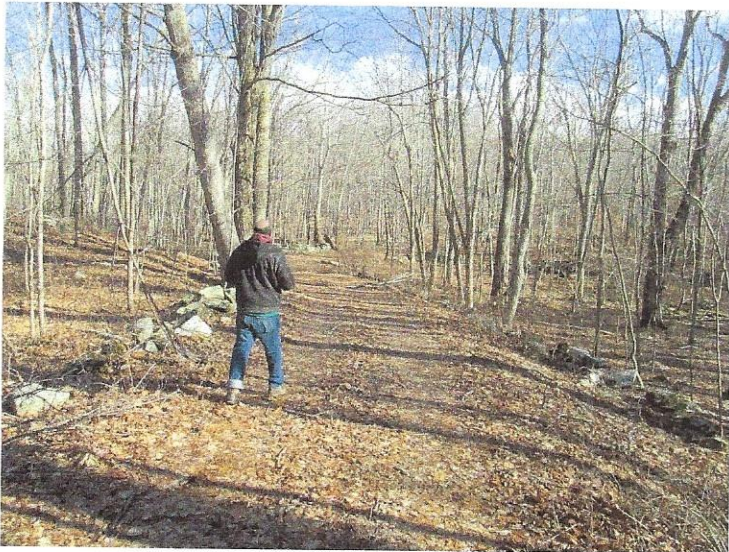
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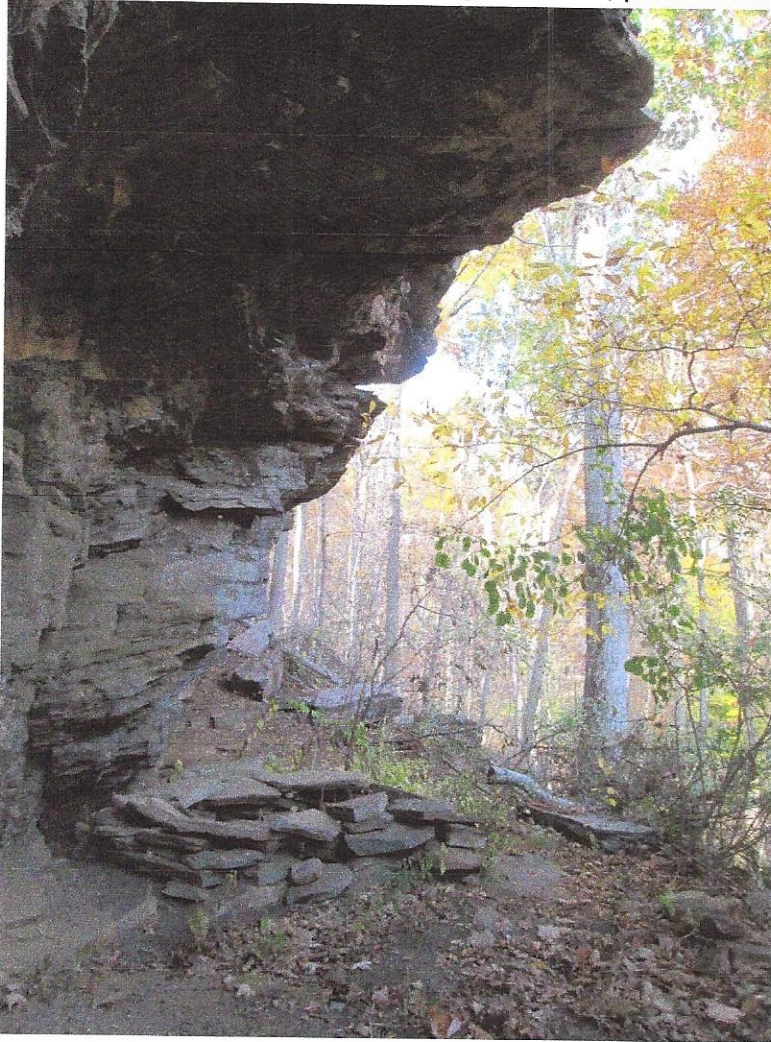


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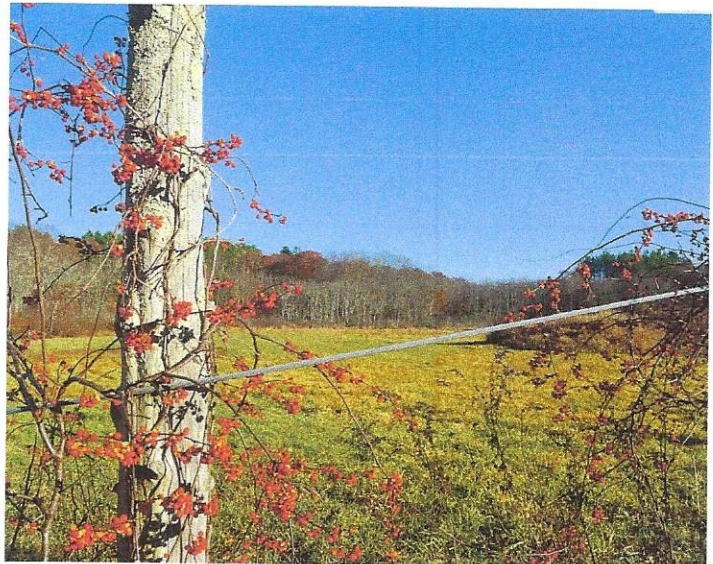
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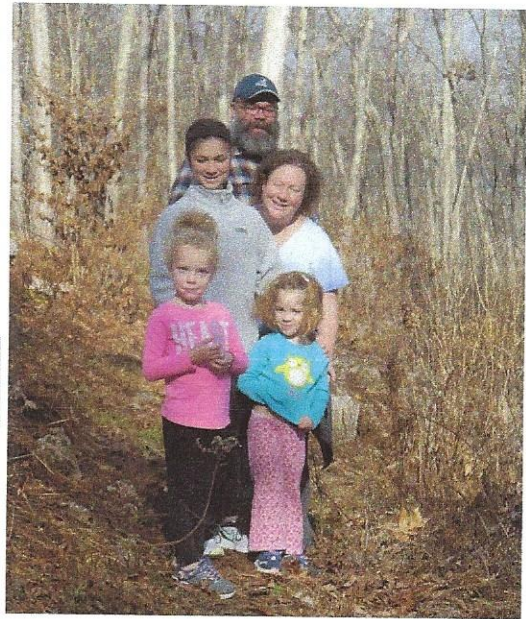
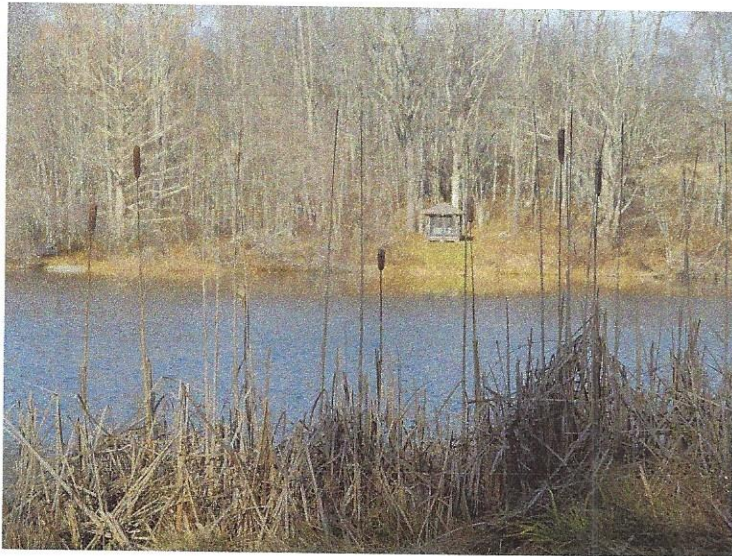
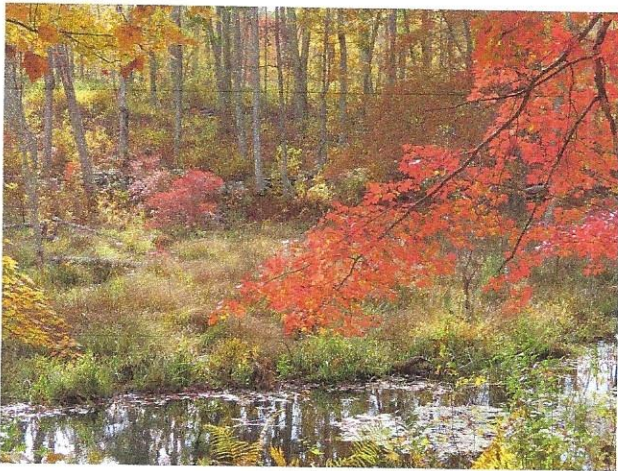
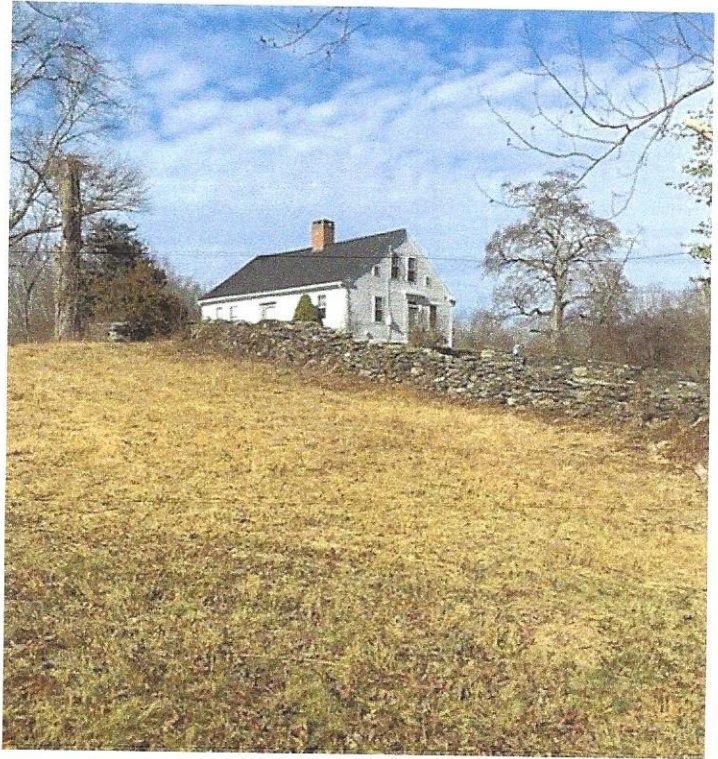
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Donated to the Joshua's Trust Conservation and Historic District in 2010 by his estate, the 19-acre Warren Stone Preserve forms an important part of a local watershed that is dominated by the Cedar Swamp Brook, a feeder to the Little River that feeds into the Shetucket River.

To the north of Route 6 in Hampton, this brook rises as a wetland in the Goodwin State Forest, and it widens into a marsh to the south of Route 6 as a result of beaver damming. The visitor has many opportunities to see wood duck, kingfishers and osprey.

From the western edge of the marsh, land slopes upwards to an old wooden road.

The two acres between the marsh and the road are covered in an oak over-story and a witch hazel understory. Sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) and highbush blueberry can be found directly next to the marsh.

The southern portion of the marsh is dominated by *phragmites* and cattails. The rest of the marsh is clear and deep enough to attract osprey, while the shallow and shrubby edges host great blue heron, wood duck, and belted kingfisher. Black duck and painted turtles have also been spotted around the marsh.

East of the marsh lies an oak-beech forest. A knoll that runs north-south through the middle of the uplands is surrounded by a U-shaped path. Downy woodpecker, red-eyed vireo, and yellow-rumped warbler can be found among the hemlocks that lie between the wooded road and the marsh.

Access the trail map [here](#).

The preserve is located at 50 Fisk Road in Hampton. Please note that Fisk Road is not paved. Rocks, large potholes and wet spots along West Fisk Road have limited vehicular access. We recommend 4-wheel-drive vehicles with good ground clearance—or, park at the beginning of Fisk Road and walk the short distance to the entrance. Visitors will see a sign marking the preserve entrance to the half-mile long U-shaped path. There is also a short spur path marked to view the beaver dam.

[information courtesy of the Joshua's Trust website: <https://joshuastrust.org/warren-stone-preserve/>]



George and Margaret Hemphill Woods

Donated by Laurie, Clara and Thomas Hemphill in 2012 and maintained by Joshua's Trust, the Hemphill Woods rests on both sides of Old Canterbury Road in Hampton. Located in the Burnham Brook drainage basin, the Woods consist of two parcels that once formed an 18th century farmstead. The original homestead still stands on the east parcel, facing the stone ruins of an outbuilding on the west parcel. The center of the Preserve is dominated by wetland soils.

In the 9.25-acre west parcel, stonewalls are lined by large oaks and Shagbark Hickories with young oaks and hickories covering the interior. A writer's cabin sits on the north edge near mature Big Tooth Aspen, and the western edge boasts a dense understory of Burning Bush. The shrubby undergrowth and wetlands provide a good shelter for wildlife and a nice migrant trap for birds. There is blazed hiking trail on the east parcel about 1.25 miles in length. Please stay on the trail to prevent trespass on neighbors' properties.

In the 34.5-acre east parcel, wetland areas are dense with shrubbery home to the Ovenbird and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. This parcel's outer edges are covered with an oak and hickory forest, while the wetter inner areas contain Yellow Birch and Red Maple. The northeastern part of this parcel is rockier with a number of glacial erratics.

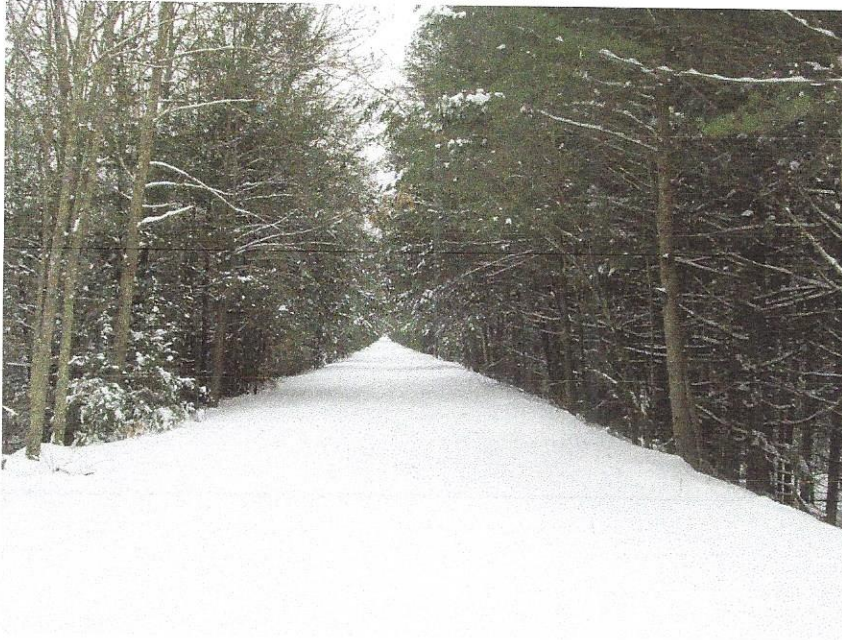
Download the trail map [here](#).

The property is located at 40 Old Canterbury Road. Look for Trust signs on your left and park in the pull-off area on the left.

Also worth exploring in Hampton . . .

The Air Line Trail

An officially designated Greenway in Hampton, this abandoned rail bed cuts through Hampton and has created miles of broad, flat walking paths. One of the finest viewing stretches can be picked up in the Goodwin State Forest on Route 6 near the Chaplin Town Line.



The Goodwin State Forest

Covering more than three square miles, the James L. Goodwin State Forest offers recreation for every season of the year. An extensive variety of trails, including an equestrian trail and the miles-long Air Line Trail, is open from dawn until dusk, 365 days a year. The 135 acre Pine Acres Lake, and the Goodwin Conservation Center combine to make this forest an eastern Connecticut treasure.

The Goodwin Forest web site has great downloadable trail maps, an events calendar, and a comprehensive overview and history of the property.

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/State-Parks/Forests/James-L-Goodwin-State-Forest>

The Forest's main entrance is right off Rt. 6, on the left going north towards Hampton Center.

Note: Check maps and signs for certain trail closures due to danger caused by trees affected by the recent blight.