

Viney Hill Brook

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

— Aldo Leopold, *A Sand Country Almanac*

This 104-acre property belonging to the Town of Essex is dedicated to active and passive recreation. The beach, swimming area, picnic grounds and Paw Park account for 30 acres and are managed by the Essex Parks and Recreation Commission. The remaining 74 acres are left for hiking, nature watching and quiet enjoyment being under the care of the Essex Conservation Commission. Viney Hill Brook Park is bottom land, sandy and rocky, atop the Mud River aquifer. Its conservation value is enhanced by the crystal-clear water in the streams and ponds, which percolate and recharge the aquifer.

History: Beginning in the 1950s, the area was mined for sand and gravel by Stanley Wollock for whom a pond is named. Wollock developed several area properties including Ferry Point Marina in Old Saybrook. Before that it was wooded, although there are signs that it was cleared from time to time for farming. The land was acquired by the Town of Essex in 2001.

Flora and Fauna: Recent studies have identified 22 tree, 25 shrub and 25 wildflower species due to the variety of soil and moisture conditions in the park. Generally, the woodlands range in age from 80-100 years. Commonly found mammals include fox, white-tailed deer, raccoon, opossum, white-footed and deer mice, otter and a thriving beaver population. Preserve highlights include a turtle nesting area, several vernal pools and wetland areas. Numerous resident and migrating bird species are found throughout the year, notably warblers, vireos, flycatchers, hawks and owls.

Location: In Essex – Cedar Grove Terrace, passive recreation entrance; Hillside Drive, active and passive recreation entrance.



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
Essex CT 06426 • EssexLandTrust.Org



Essex Land Trust

Caring for Our World Here at Home



Essex Land Trust

TRAIL MAPS

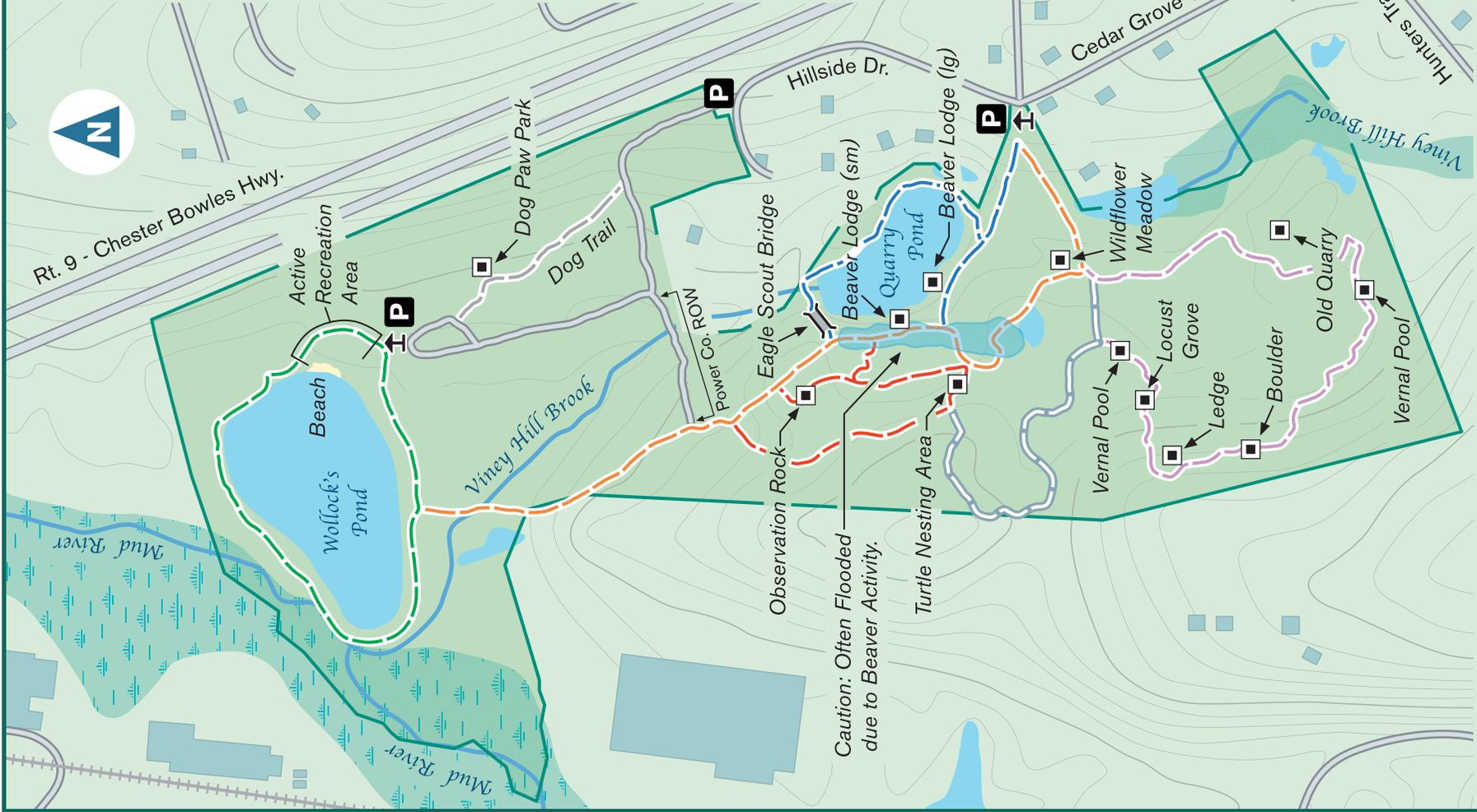
Viney Hill Brook



EssexLandTrust.org

Viney Hill Brook

Essex, CT - 104 acres



- Conservation Area
- Water
- Point of Interest
- Wetland
- Parking Area
- Trail
- Road
- Kiosk
- Orange - Broad Walk
- Red - Turtle Trail
- Blue - Quarry Pond Trail
- Green - Wollock's Pond Loop
- White - Upland Woods Trail
- Purple - Forest Glade Trail



January 2019

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

Viney Hill Brook is a Town of Essex Property managed by the Essex Conservation Commission and the Essex Parks & Recreation Commission.

Essex Town Hall - www.essexct.gov
29 West Avenue Essex, CT 06426

Caution: Often Flooded due to Beaver Activity.

Welcome to Viney Hill Brook

- 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 be on leash.

Clean up after your dog

- Leave no trace - please carry out what you carry in
- No fires, hunting, bicycles or motorized vehicles allowed
- This map is for general reference use only.