

Dedicated to John Lohmann

This man did more in Old Lyme to galvanize us in the philosophy and practice of land preservation than anyone else I know.

His efforts over forty odd years, sometimes informing, sometimes prompting, always encouraging and generously contributing, made a permanent mark on Old Lyme. He worked mostly behind the scenes, so quietly that most people were not even aware of his efforts.

By contrast, his public appearances were not always appreciated. He cut trees and trimmed bushes, not necessarily his own, and he burned brush without a permit much to the consternation of Town government and the fire department.

Meanwhile, his private efforts resulted in a legacy that Old Lyme will continue to enjoy for a very long time. For example, he pointed out to me how the Town could embrace Public Law 490 which provides for the encouragement of land owners of forest, field, and farm to preserve their land and receive a tax reduction in the process. This step led to the creation of the Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions. On another occasion he encouraged me to go after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who were dumping river dredged spoils on the tidemarsch grasses of Calves Island. Later, he spearheaded the Land Trust's efforts to acquire Watch Rock.

He and his artist wife Mary were also involved in the publication of booklets about tidemarsches and animal life both in our open space areas and in our historic district. We are forever in his debt.

— *Mervin Roberts, May 2006*

*Special thanks to Mariette Brown for the maps,
George James for trail work and text and the
people of Old Lyme for making both
the town Open Space program and
Old Lyme Conservation Trust a success.*

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Deborah and Edward Ames Preserve

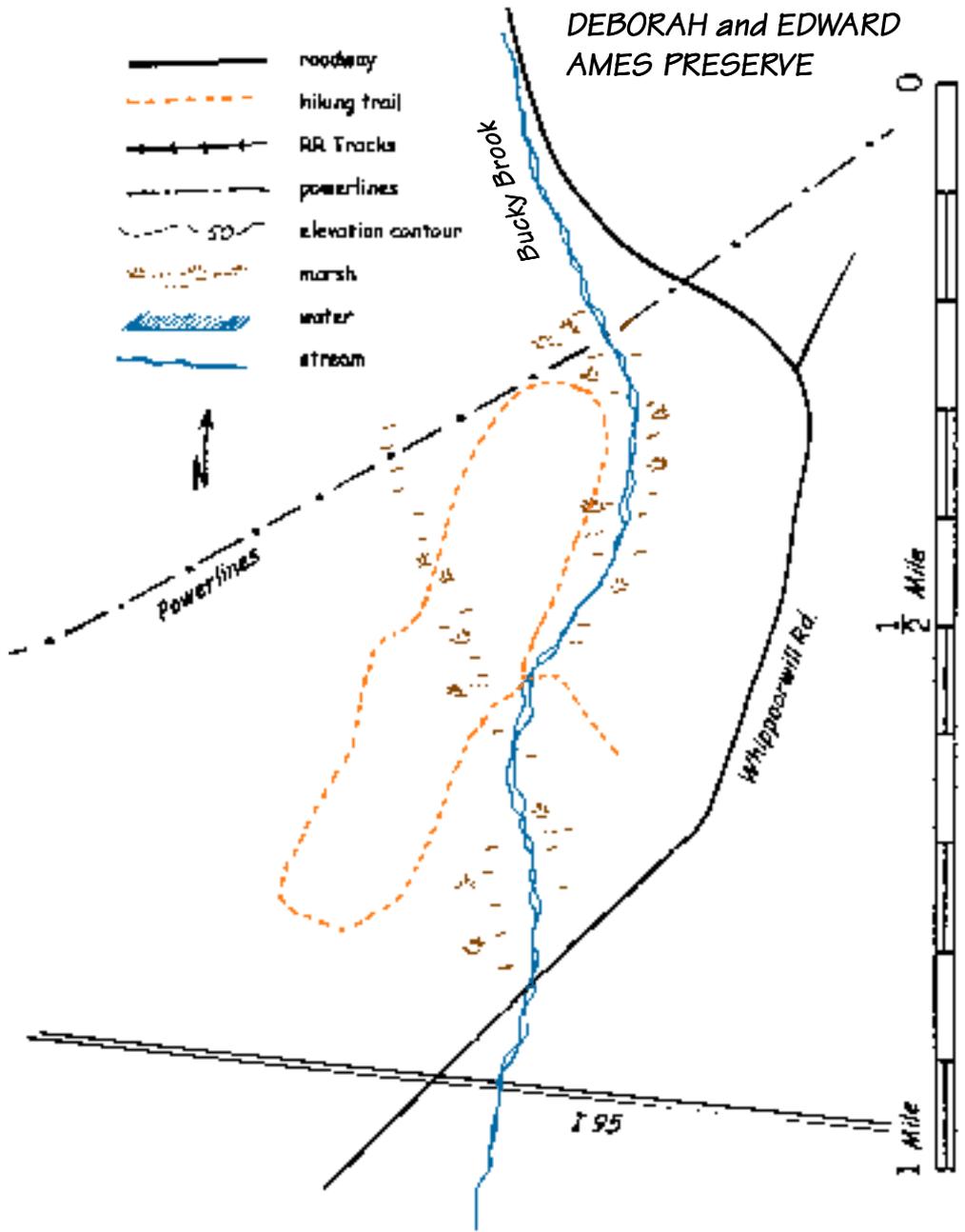
This park encompasses a large bog with birds in abundance. Bucky Brook flows through the property from Whippoorwill Road to Interstate 95. Purchased by the town Open Space program with the help of the Old Lyme Conservation Trust in 2003.

Locations: Parking is provided adjacent to International Coachworks at 103 Whippoorwill Road, just north of Interstate 95. Carefully cross Whippoorwill Road to the trailhead.

Hike Level: MODERATE. The main trail has two loops on each side of the woods road bisecting the property north-south. Cross Bucky Brook and then turn west and follow the trail up the ridge adjacent to I-95. Return to the main woods road and head north to the power lines, then bear north east up the power lines. The trail turns down and back toward the Bucky Brook crossing following the edge of the large bog. An opening between the trees provides a view out over the bog.

Estimated Time: 45 minutes

DEBORAH and EDWARD AMES PRESERVE



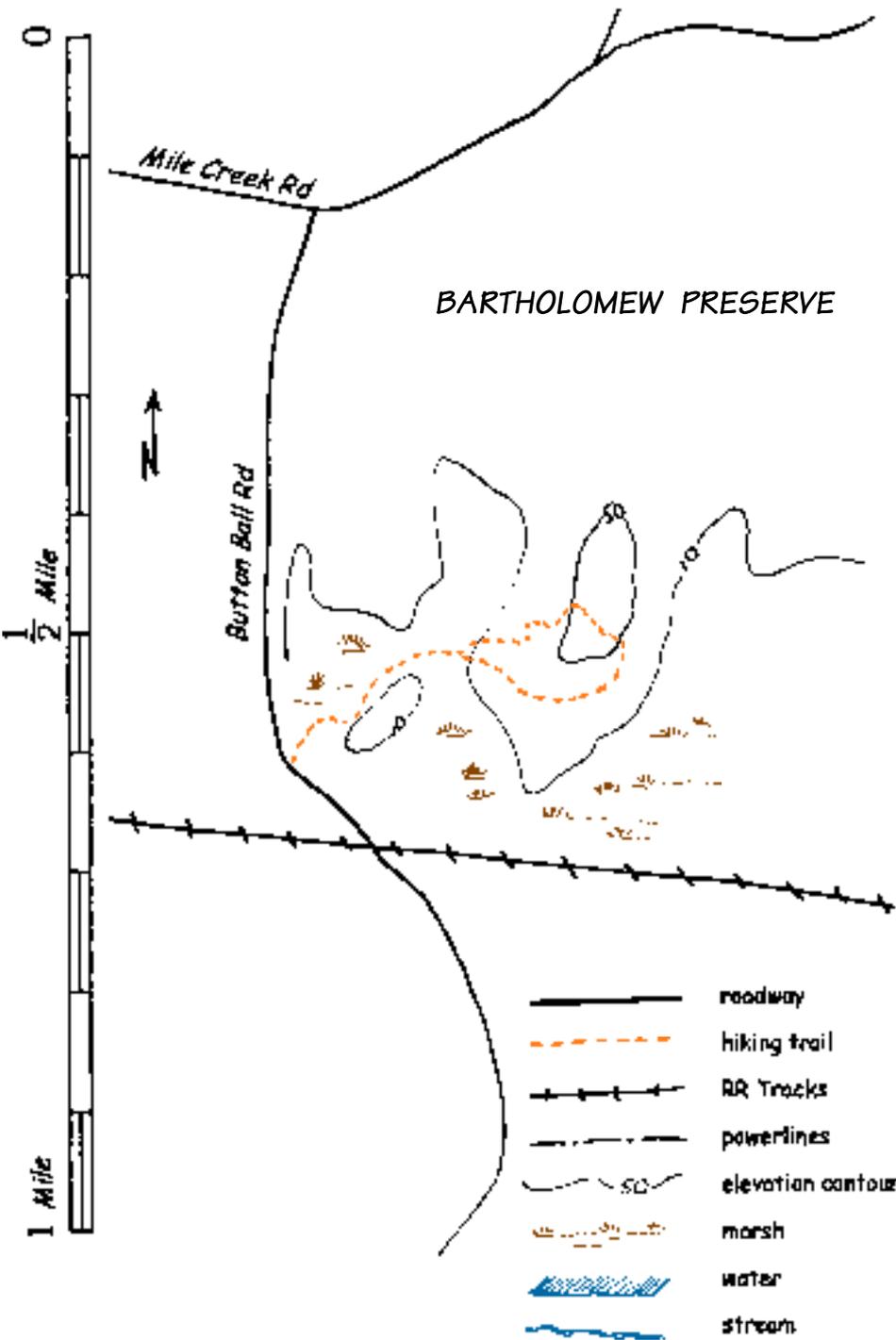
Bartholomew Preserve

This preserve is located in the Old Lyme Greenway, spanning from the Long Island Sound shore to the north-east corner of town. This neighborhood is home to a very large flock of turkeys. Generously donated to the town of Old Lyme by the Dana Bartholomew family in 1998.

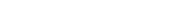
Locations: This preserve is located just north of the narrow bridge over the railroad tracks on Buttonball Road. Parking is available for a few cars.

Hike Level: EASY. The loop trail is on the western half of the property. There is a large bog that bisects the property.

Estimated Time: 20 minutes



BARTHOLOMEW PRESERVE

-  roadway
-  hiking trail
-  RR Tracks
-  powerlines
-  elevation contour
-  marsh
-  water
-  stream

Champlain North

The main feature on this trail is the old oak tree, 16.5 feet in circumference. It is listed on the Connecticut Notable Trees list. There are several vernal pools and a pleasant mix of red cedar, oaks, and maples, with an occasional holly. Deer and turkey are plentiful. Purchased by the town Open Space program with The Nature Conservancy and State of Connecticut matching grants in 2003.

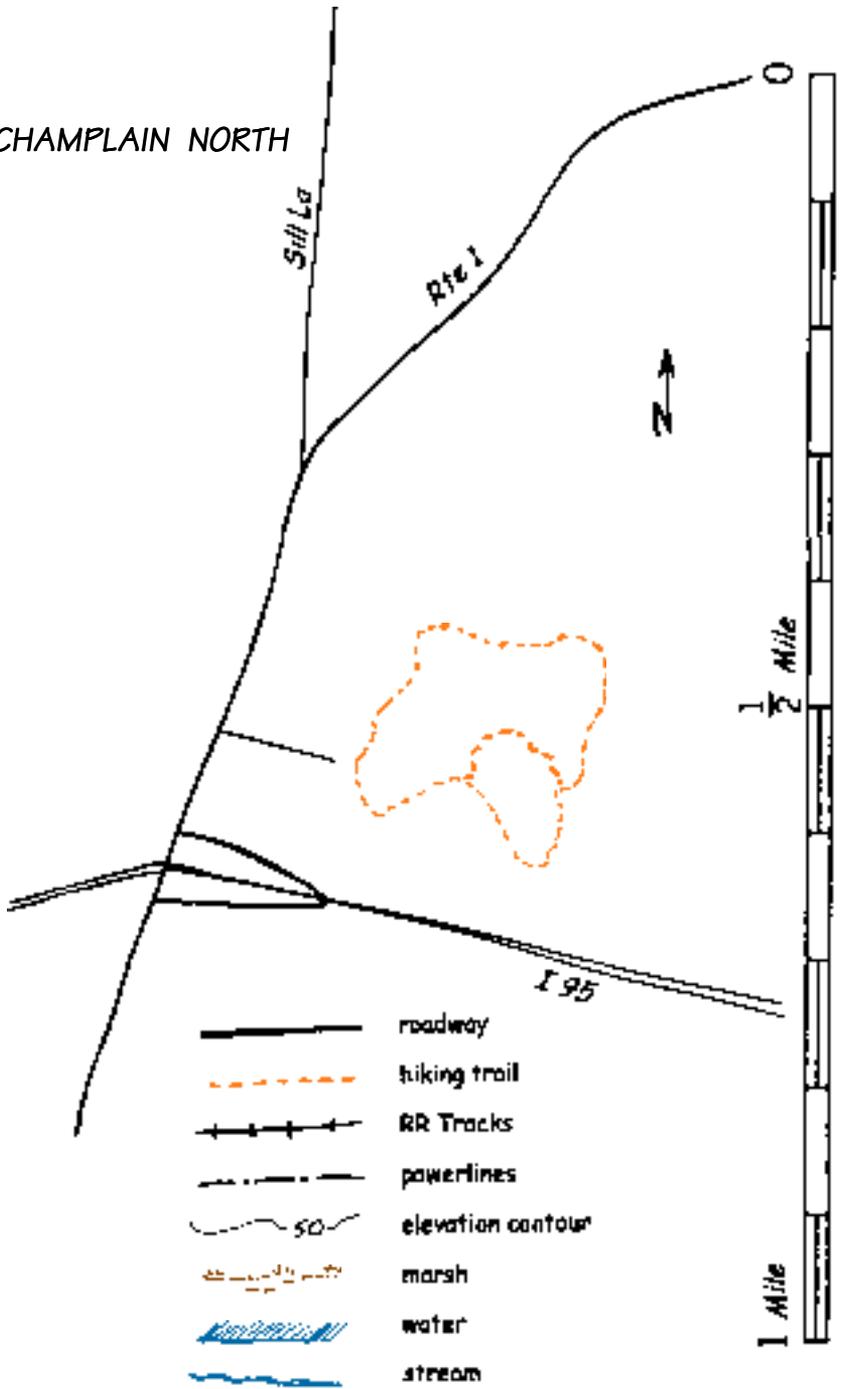
Location: At the end of Wyckford Road just north of the Old Lyme Inn. Park on the grass in front of the barrier.

Hike Level: EASY. One or two short steep slopes.

Walk along the dirt road to the big oak, then follow the perimeter trail in a northerly direction to a stone wall, then easterly to a ridge, then southerly along the ridge until you cross a well used wood road, then westerly along that wood road until you return to the big oak. The trail proceeds across a series of north-south ridge lines, then along one of the ridges, and then in a westerly direction over a series of ridges to the big oak.

Estimated time: 30 minutes

CHAMPLAIN NORTH



Champlain South

This extensive trail system includes climbing ridges, crossing a stream that feeds the Duck River and hiking around a large bog. Its anchor trail is the old Boggy Hole roadbed that connected the first meetinghouse in Old Lyme with the Boston Post Road. Spectacular 100 foot granite cliffs can be seen on the Library Lane side. There are vernal pools and a peaceful old growth pine grove. Purchased by the town Open Space program with The Nature Conservancy and State of Connecticut matching grants in 2003.

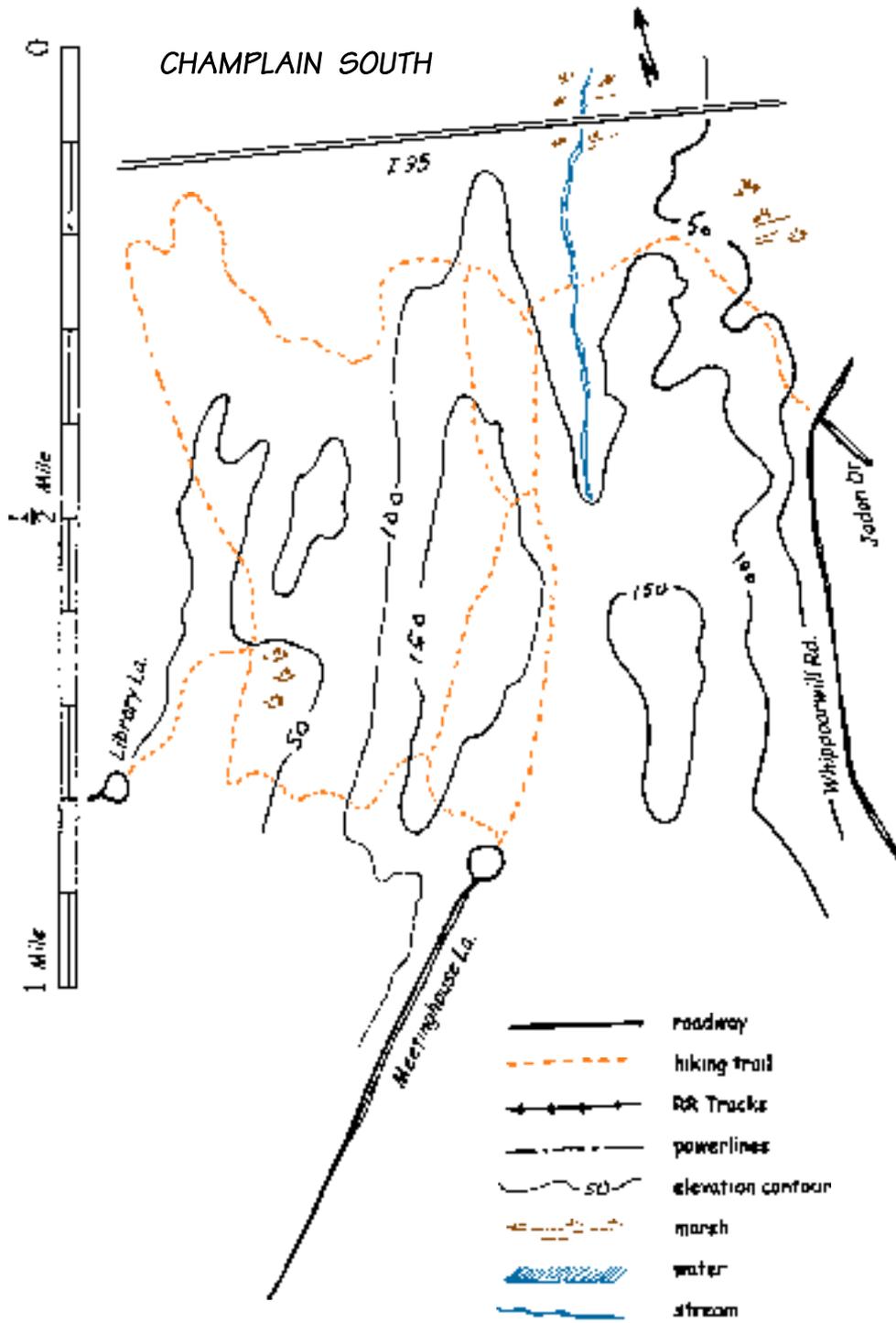
Locations: There are three well marked trailheads: the end of Meetinghouse Lane, the end of Library Lane, and an entrance across from Jadon Drive. There is parking at Library Lane and Meetinghouse Lane, but not at Jadon Drive. There are trail signs at these entrances with a detailed map and rules, as well as a map posted at the interior intersection with the old Boggy Hole Road.

Hike Level: MODERATE. The many trail loops are all well marked. The perimeter trail has two steep, short ridges to climb up onto. The old Boggy Hole roadbed is an easy walk, with gradual ups and downs.

Estimated Time: 1 hour

There is a new trail that strikes off to the right after the trail map sign at Meetinghouse Lane.

CHAMPLAIN SOUTH



George & Woodward H. Griswold Preserve

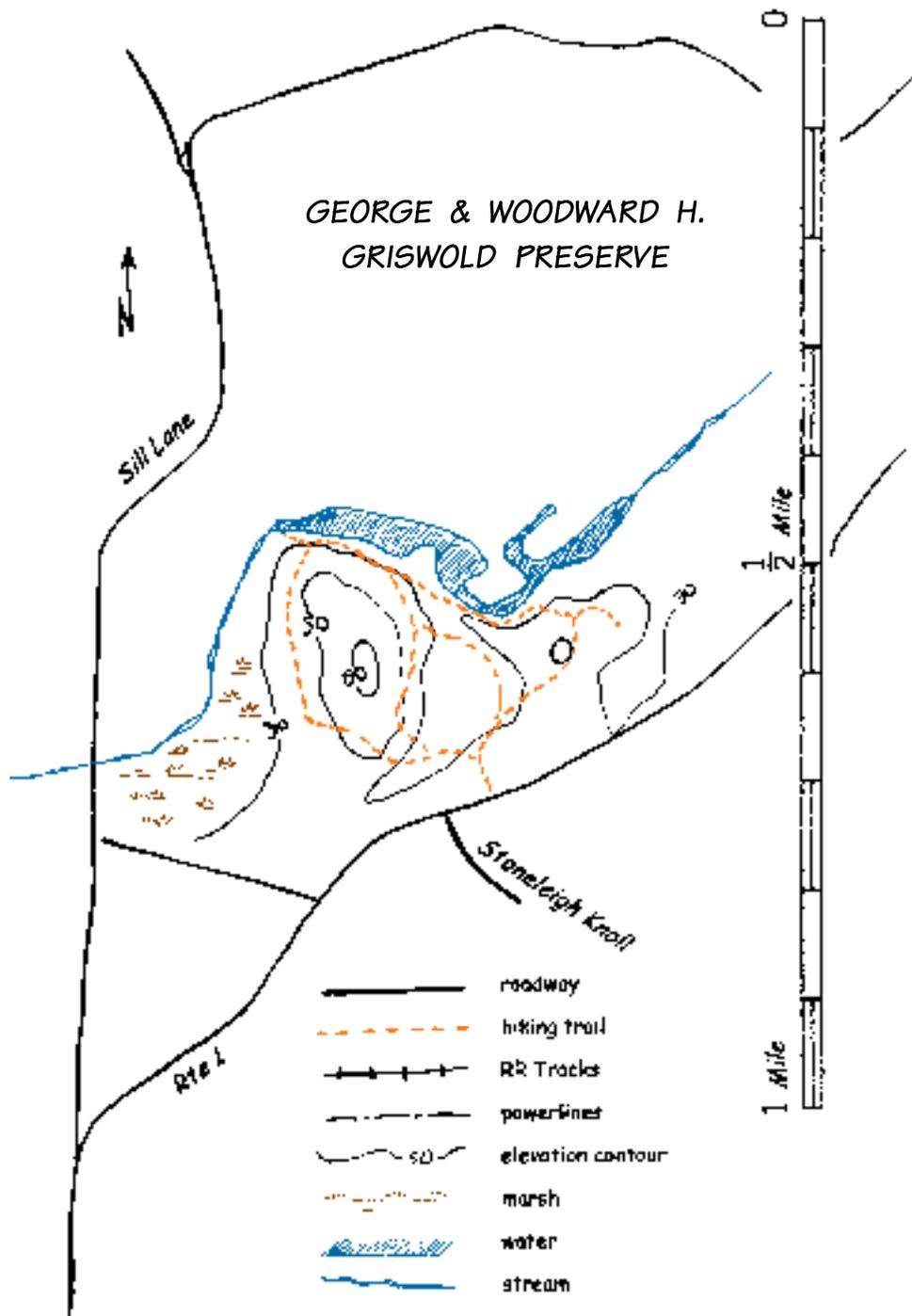
The site of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's fish and eel ladders. During your visit you are likely to see and hear the beaver that reside in the pond. The fish ladder has a viewing window that allows you to watch the fish climbing the ladder during the spring migration. Donated to the Old Lyme Conservation Trust by Mary Steube in memory of her uncle and father in 1999.

Location: The parking lot entrance is directly across from Stoneleigh Knoll, off the Boston Post Road, about a mile north of the I-95 overpass.

Hike Level: EASY. The main trail to the fish ladder is flat and wide. There is a loop trail that follows the perimeter of the park. All trails end up back at the parking lot.

Estimated time: 30 minutes

GEORGE & WOODWARD H.
GRISWOLD PRESERVE



-  roadway
-  hiking trail
-  RR Tracks
-  powerlines
-  elevation contour
-  marsh
-  water
-  stream

Lohmann-Buck-Twining Preserve

This magnificent piece of property runs along the Lieutenant River, across from and north of the Kriebel Gallery at the Florence Griswold Museum. Enjoy the spectacular views of the Lieutenant River. You will see many water fowl and hear plenty of birds in the hemlock forest that is crumbling because of the woolly adelgid insect. Generously donated by John Lohmann, Emay Buck and Bud Twining to the Old Lyme Conservation Trust and The Nature Conservancy in 2005.

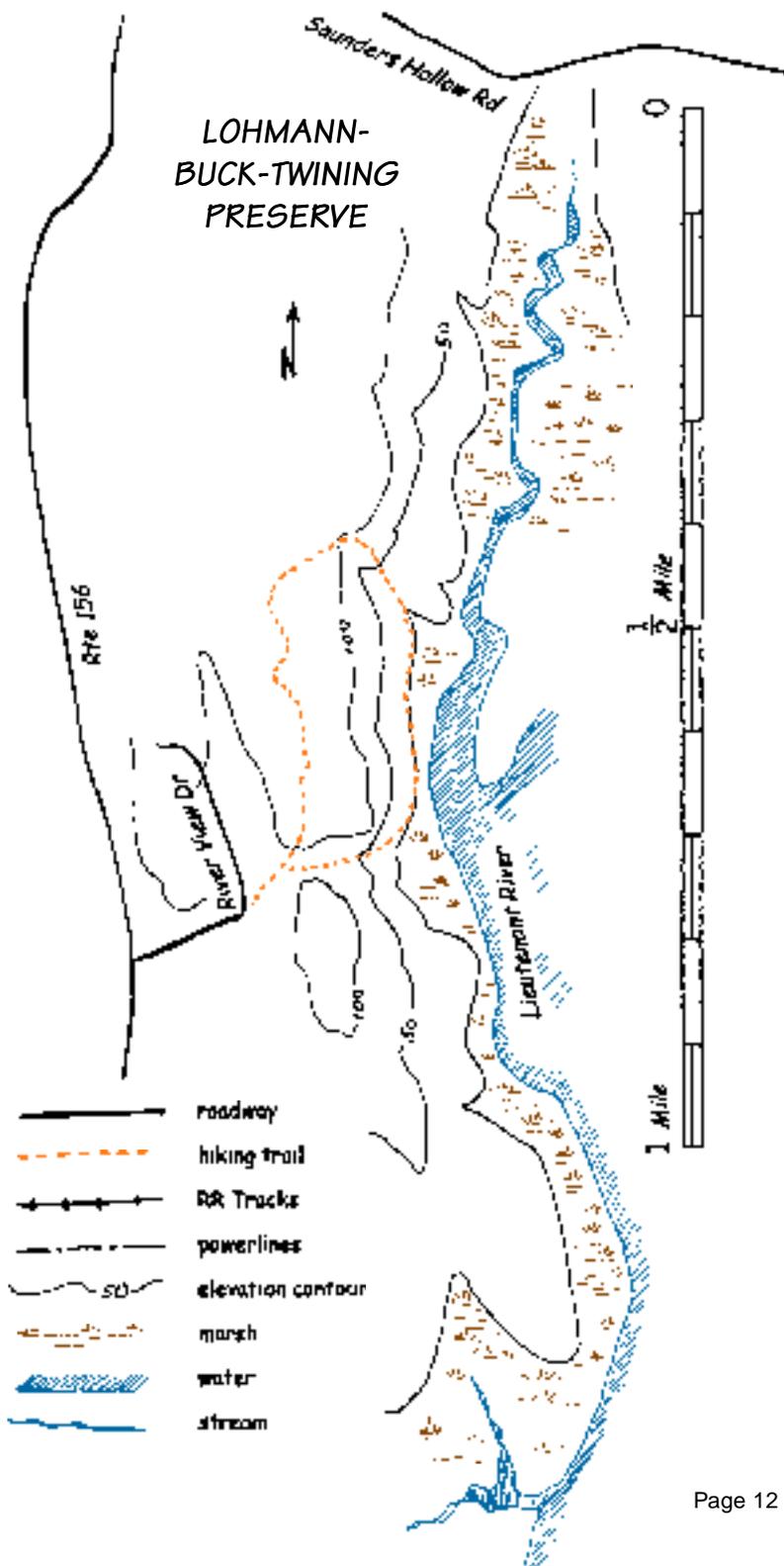
Location: Parking is at the crest of the hill, at the bend in the road on River View Drive, just north of Talcott Farms.

Hike Level: DIFFICULT. A strenuous hike up the ridge, then down to the river and back up the ridge again.

Estimated time: 1 hour

Bring your hiking stick and a pair of binoculars.

LOHMANN- BUCK-TWINING PRESERVE



Mile Creek Preserve

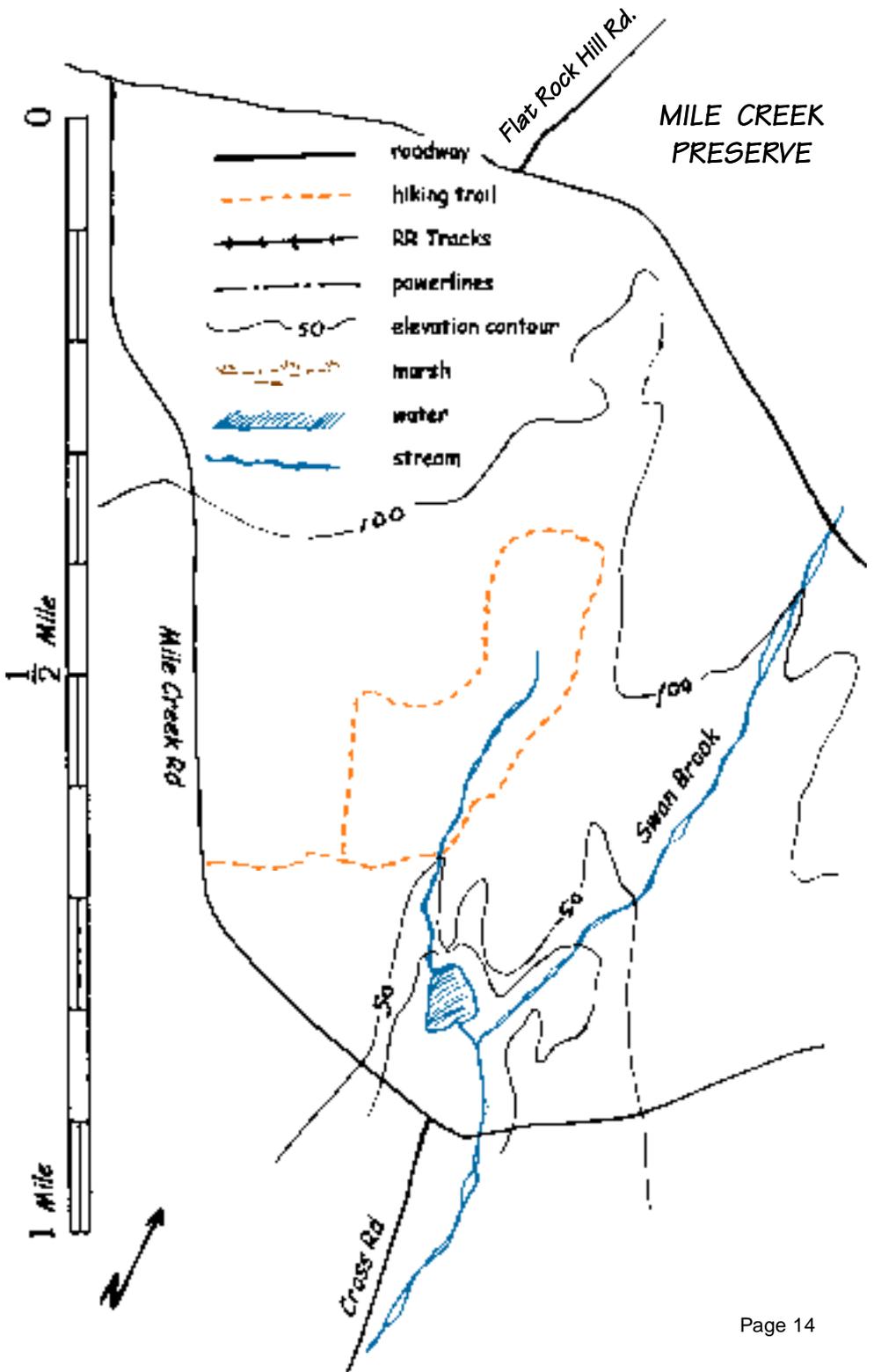
This park is located just 2/10ths of a mile west of the Mile Creek School. Swan Brook flows through this preserve where you might see deer and turkey. Generously donated by Constance and William Pike to the Old Lyme Conservation Trust in 1962.

Locations: The entrance is adjacent to mailbox number 191 Mile Creek Road. There is parking for one car.

Hike Level: EASY. The loop trail follows the perimeter of the wetlands and crosses Swan Brook twice.

Estimated Time: 30 minutes

MILE CREEK PRESERVE



Elizabeth Karter Watch Rock Nature Preserve

At the mouth of the Connecticut River, Watch Rock overlooks one of The Nature Conservancy's 40 "Last Great Places" of global ecological importance. Shore birds can be seen in abundance during low tide and there are also owls, ospreys and a Northern Harrier living in the area. Deer are often seen as well, and foxes and coyotes are seen occasionally. Purchased by The Old Lyme Conservation Trust in 1986. Dedicated to Elizabeth "Bunt" Karter in 2004 in recognition of her unfailingly good nature and indefatigable spirit in support of our community.

Location: To get there turn off Route 156 directly opposite McCurdy Road near the Old Lyme Golf Course. Turn right, then left then right again onto Joel Rd.; the park entrance and parking lot are at the end of Joel Rd.

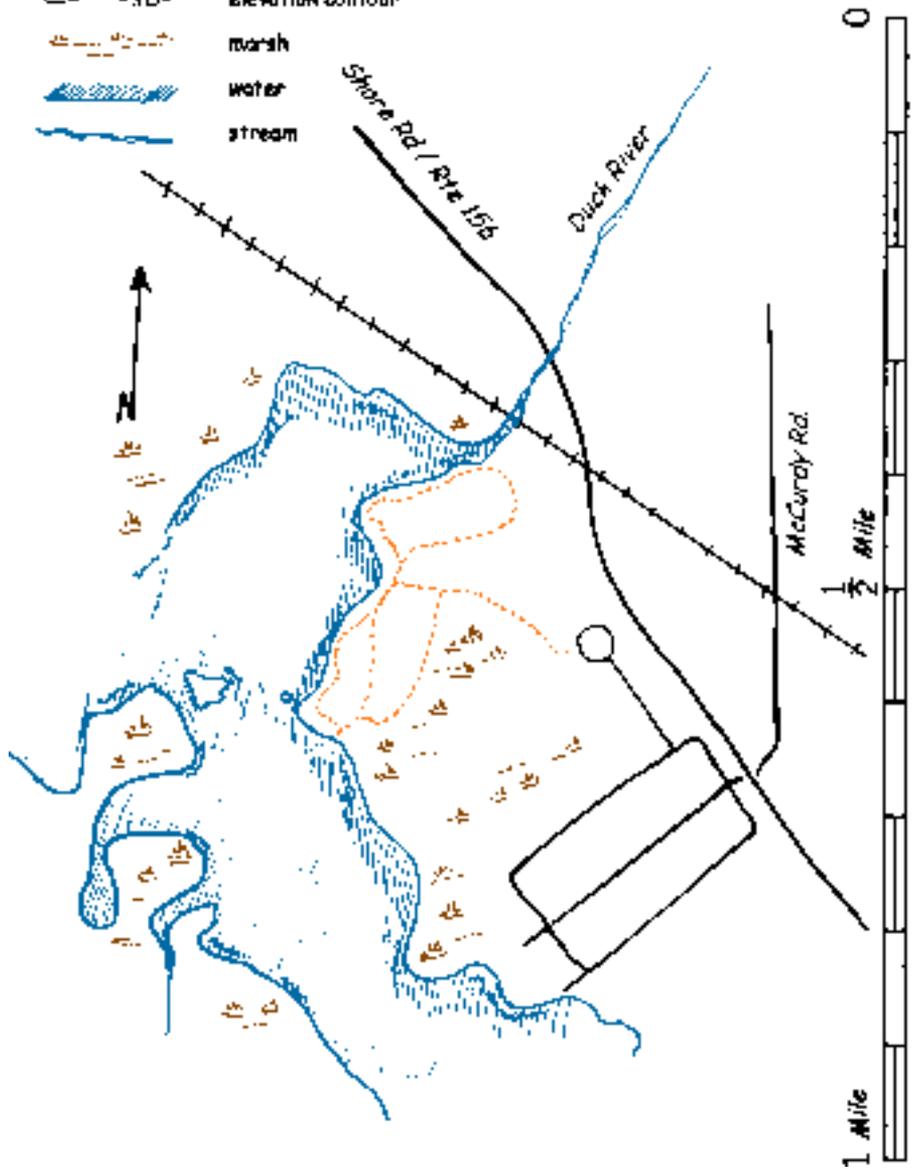
Hike Level: EASY. The main trails are flat and wide, but some little bit of stepping up, down, or over is required on the side trails. All trails end up back at the parking lot.

Estimated time: 30 minutes

Features: This is one of Old Lyme's more popular nature parks, with good sites for fishing and crabbing. As such it is well used and should be kept neat. Please pack out what you pack in. Do not leave fishing line or bait. There is an outhouse.

ELIZABETH KARTER WATCH ROCK NATURE PRESERVE

-  roadway
-  hiking trail
-  RR Tracks
-  powerlines
-  elevation contour
-  marsh
-  water
-  stream



Letterboxes



Watch Rock Letterbox

Down in the southwest corner, find a wooded point overlooking spartina grass and wild rice with a jutting outcrop of rocks in oak and cedar. A tumbled stonewall crosses the river front.

Standing on the highest point of rock, the largest oak is almost due south: the Whimsy Walk Letterbox is in a low hollow at it's base on the southern side.

Pine bench Letterbox

In the sanctuary grove find a plank between trunks.
Sit facing the sunrise and look over your shoulder
Just to the left of the trunk.

Northwest Point Letterbox

*Lives in an oak, 1/2 blown down, and
To the east on slightly higher ground
Lives a low ledge of rock behind bramble.
Find the deer path that loops around
To the southeast side.*

Dedicated with love to MPf

Whimsy Walk

Three letterboxes on an easy 1/2 mile hike in the tiny, jewel-like Watch Rock Nature Preserve in Old Lyme, CT. Bring the children and a painted rock!

Notes

Notes