

Lyme Corner Trails

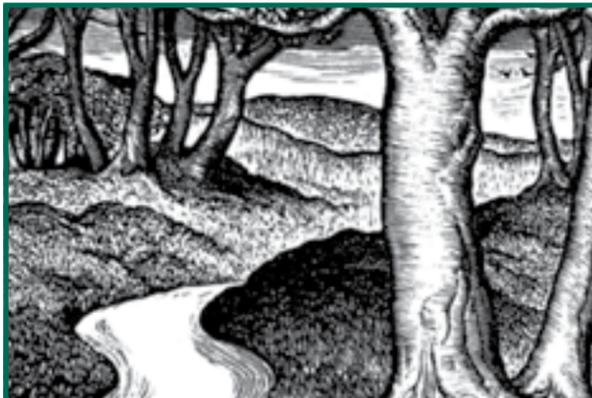
- Preserves are open from sunrise to sunset.
- Dogs must be under control at all times.
- Non-motorized biking and horseback riding are allowed on all trails except the white trails.
- **NO** motorized vehicles, hunting, or fires are allowed.
- Most trails are moderately easy with some hills.
- Yellow Trails are connector trails.

ACCESS: The Lyme Corner Trails Complex has several trailheads on the east side of Gungy Road in Lyme. The **Young Preserve Parking Area** is about 1/2 mile north of the intersection of Gungy Road with Beaver Brook Road and Grassy Hill Road. The Red Trail in Young can be directly accessed from this point. The first 100 feet of this trail is a steep rocky climb. A more gentle approach can be found at the **Yellow Trailhead** a short walk to the south. The **Main Parking Lot for access to Hartman Park and Walbridge Woodlands** is located about 3/4 mile further north. The **Field Entrance to Hartman Park** is another 1/2 mile north. A short way up the road is the **Goodwin Trailhead**. Hartman Park can also be accessed from connecting trails in Nehantic State Forest in East Lyme.

Hartman Park

The 302-acre Hartman Park was donated as a gift to the Town of Lyme by John and Kelly Bill Hartman in 1988. The Park's 10 miles of trails were laid out by Marianne Pfeiffer and Jeanne Thompson and feature many cultural and natural points of interest.

PARK ROAD (purple) **1.4 miles one way. No motorized vehicles allowed.** Park Road is an easy-to-follow dirt road. It is the original cart road from the early settlement in the area. It connects to the Nehantic State Forest's trail system in East Lyme. The flat rocks that form the **Stone Bridge** are typical of old colonial roads. The Park Road is a good landmark to find your way back to the parking lot from connecting trails.



Thomas W. Nason, The Brook, Florence Griswold Museum, Lyme Historical Society

LYME CORNER TRAILS

Hartman Park

Walbridge Woodlands

Philip E. Young Preserve

This delightful network of trails traverses three contiguous preserves nestled in the northeast corner of Lyme to the east of Gungy Road. The trails provide opportunities for wildlife viewing, hiking, non-motorized biking, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding through areas of diverse natural habitat. More than twelve miles of trails extend south through Hartman Park from the Salem town line through Walbridge Woodlands and The Philip E. Young property to Beaver Brook Road in Lyme. The 430 acres of preserved land creates a valuable wildlife corridor in combination with surrounding protected land. To the east is Nehantic State Forest in East Lyme, to the south is the Beebe Preserve, and to the west, hundreds of acres of privately-owned woodlands are protected by deeded conservation easements.

THE SCHOOL ROOM: As you walk along the Park Road, you will come to the **School Room**, a gathering area that overlooks the beaver pond. There are several picnic tables and benches. **Maps** and information are posted here. Chalk messages are welcome on the blackboard. A **porta-potty** is located on the Park Road near the School Room.

RED TRAIL HARTMAN: NUBBLES AND RIDGES 2.4 miles (plus about 1.5 miles to return to the parking lot via connecting trails). This trail starts from the School Room with a lovely walk along the pond. It continues past an open field and dramatic ledges such as **Cave Cliff**. A highlight is the "bald nubble" ridgetop of smooth rock that overlooks the valley. Here you will find the big boulder named **Turtle Rock**, a glacial erratic that was plucked from a ledge and transported southward by a glacier thousands of years ago.

HERITAGE TRAIL (ORANGE) 2.9 miles. There is a steep climb up to Chapman Ridge (See history section).

NATURE TRAIL (GREEN) 0.25 miles. This easy walk, perfect for children, traverses various habitats. You will discover the **Fairy Circle**, elf homes, and other surprises.

BLUE TRAIL HARTMAN 0.6 miles. The easiest way to **Chapman Farm**, it travels over an old roadway.

POWER LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY (Dirt road 0.75 miles) The road is not maintained by the Town of Lyme or the Land Trust. Several Park trails cross this tree-cleared area.

YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED

To contribute to maintenance of the parks, please send a check, in memo line: **Hartman Park Endowment Fund** to:

The Community Foundation of Eastern CT

PO Box 769, New London CT 06320 or

Go online to www.cfect.org/ and choose

Hartman Park Endowment Fund in the "Allocation Information" drop-down menu on "Give Now" page.

Or go to www.lymelandtrust.org, click on "DONATE"

History

For thousands of years prior to the arrival of European settlers, the Corner Trails area was a seasonal hunting ground for the Nehantic Indians. After the establishment of the Saybrook colony in 1635, the English set aside this land as an Indian hunting ground, while reserving the right to harvest the valuable timber. During colonial times, subsistence farmers set up homesteads in the area. Freed African and Native American slaves were welcomed into the area along with European settlers. In 1800, the census record states that there was a multi-racial community of fifteen households in the area. Indications are that the farmers were able to eke out a living by cooperation with their neighbors - sharing tools, barns, and labor. The destructive agricultural practices of the time damaged the already marginal farmland and most of the inhabitants moved to more fertile lands by the 1850s. Although the land has been undeveloped for more than 100 years and the cleared pastures have been replaced by mature forests, there is still evidence of this once active agricultural community. The elaborate stone walls and stone foundations that lace the area are a beautiful legacy left by these industrious farmers.

THE HERITAGE TRAIL (ORANGE) LANDMARKS

Mill Site: An invaluable resource, timber was harvested and shipped to England as planks, staves, and boards. There is evidence of a water-powered sawmill on this site beginning in the 1600s. Lyme records state that the uplands of Lyme were "over cut" by 1683.

Lee Farm: The Henry Lee family was one of the last to live and farm in the area. The remains of their house can be seen by the side of Park Road. This central chimney house is believed to have been built about 1735 by Dan Clark. It burned down in about 1890. Other stone structures hint of the many farm



For additional maps visit www.lymelandtrust.org.

Report any problems during your visit on the Trail Condition Form: www.lymelandtrust.org/trail-condition-form.

Walbridge Woodlands

The purchase in 2012 by the Lyme Land Conservation Trust of the 46-acre preserve south of Hartman Park was made possible by donations from members of the Sargent family to honor the late David C. Sargent, an avid naturalist who lived all his life in Connecticut and helped with natural preservation initiatives along Connecticut's shorelines.

WHITE TRAIL WALBRIDGE (Foot traffic only) **0.9 miles.** The trail features a ridge with seasonal views of the surrounding forests, striking stone outcroppings, ledge rock, and peaceful wetlands. The remains of a unique stone wall livestock enclosure in a cedar forest hint of the land's pastoral history.

Philip E. Young Preserve

This 82-acre preserve was given to the Town of Lyme in 2012 in memory of Ruth Young's son who grew up in Lyme and cherished this precious natural land.

RED TRAIL YOUNG 1.04 miles. The Young Preserve Red Trail has a variety of habitats with beautiful thickets of mountain laurel, verdant wetlands, and mature forest. The first 100 yards is a fairly steep climb up rocky ledge but it levels off at the top and remains moderately easy. The trailhead to the more gentle **Yellow Trail Connection** is a short walk to the south on Gungy Road.

BLUE TRAILS YOUNG: The blue spurs lead to dramatic overlooks with views of Cedar Lake and valley. **Folly Point** was a separate piece donated to the Land Trust because the former owner's plan to build on it was considered "folly".

Goodwin Trail

Richard H. Goodwin Trail, overseen by the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee, is a an extended trail system crossing four towns: East Haddam, Salem, Lyme and East Lyme. In the future, the goal is to connect to other existing trail systems in surrounding towns.

activities. The multi-story **Lee Barn** is believed to have been built after 1840 based upon the feather and wedge technology used to split the stones for the foundation.

Chapman Farm: Ezra "Fixer" Chapman owned this farm about 200 years ago. The little walled square is believed to be the grave of Mr. Chapman.

Overlook: The overlook gives us a glimpse of what the entire area looked like 150 years ago when it was cleared of trees.

Fireplace: This fireplace is all that remains of a hut, possibly of a charcoal kiln tender.

Clark Farm: An outbuilding marks the farm of Dan Clark Jr.

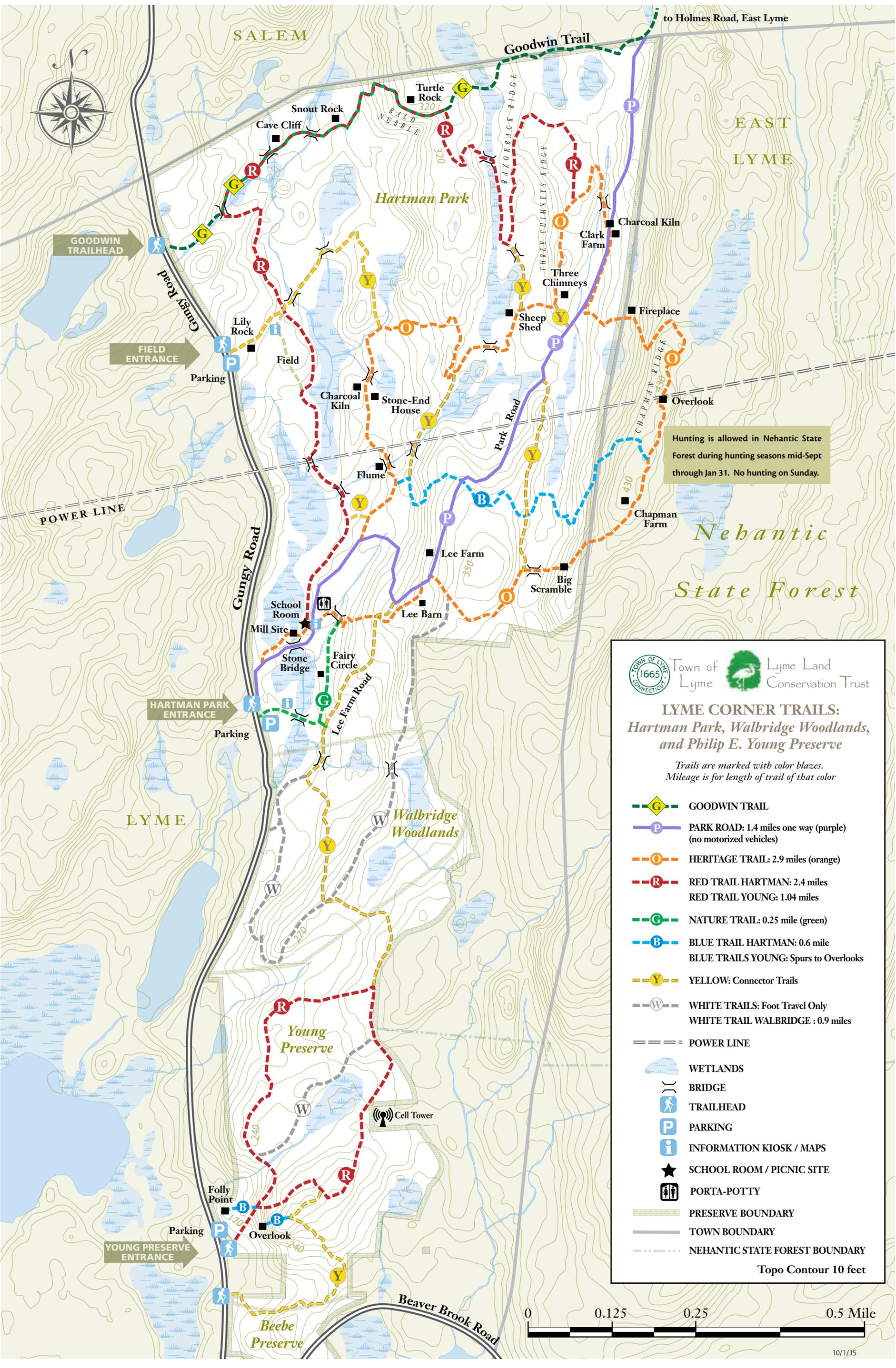
Charcoal kiln: If you look carefully, you can see a very subtle mound of earth about 30 feet across surrounded by a circular indentation. This is the remains of a large pit to make charcoal.

Three Chimneys: There has been much speculation about this fascinating collection of stone structures within a large stone wall enclosure. In one corner of the area is a wall with two chimneys that resembles house foundations built at Plymouth Plantation in the 1620s. One theory based upon the evidence is that the complex was one of the forts built by Lion Gardiner around 1635 for the defense of the Saybrook Colony.

Sheep shed: A large boulder was utilized as one wall in this stone enclosure that probably housed sheep. Sheep were one of the main livestock animals on the farms. Unfortunately, sheep can be very destructive to the landscape, causing erosion and loss of vegetation which likely contributed to the degradation of the land for agricultural use.

Stone-end House: This foundation is unusual because the chimney is at the end of the house rather than in the center. The fireplace lintel stones and hearth stone are still recognizable. The silted-in stream by the house would have been free flowing with clear water when the house was built in the 1700s.

More information on the history of the area is available in "The Heritage Trail" Booklet by Marianne Pfeiffer and "Cultural Resources in Hartman Park, Lyme CT: An Archival and Archaeological Project" by Dr. John Pfeiffer.



Hunting is allowed in Nehantic State Forest during hunting seasons mid-Sept through Jan 31. No hunting on Sunday.

Town of Lyme
 1665 CONNECTICUT
 Lyme Land Conservation Trust

LYME CORNER TRAILS: Hartman Park, Walbridge Woodlands, and Philip E. Young Preserve

*Trails are marked with color blazes.
 Mileage is for length of trail of that color*

- GOODWIN TRAIL
- PARK ROAD: 1.4 miles one way (purple) (no motorized vehicles)
- HERITAGE TRAIL: 2.9 miles (orange)
- RED TRAIL HARTMAN: 2.4 miles
 RED TRAIL YOUNG: 1.04 miles
- NATURE TRAIL: 0.25 mile (green)
- BLUE TRAIL HARTMAN: 0.6 mile
 BLUE TRAILS YOUNG: Spurs to Overlooks
- YELLOW: Connector Trails
- WHITE TRAILS: Foot Travel Only
 WHITE TRAIL WALBRIDGE : 0.9 miles
- POWER LINE
- WETLANDS
- BRIDGE
- TRAILHEAD
- PARKING
- INFORMATION KIOSK / MAPS
- SCHOOL ROOM / PICNIC SITE
- PORTA-POTTY
- PRESERVE BOUNDARY
- TOWN BOUNDARY
- NEHANTIC STATE FOREST BOUNDARY

Topo Contour 10 feet

