The Preserves
Preserves are open from sunrise to sunset. No motorized vehicles or fires are allowed. Most of the hiking trails are moderately easy, with more challenging rocky, hilly terrain on the red and purple trails in the Ravine Trail Preserve.

Please help us maintain the trails.
Carry clippers and a small bag for trash.
Do: Cut back plants that are encroaching on the path.
Do: Cut saplings (baby trees) low to the ground or leave waist high.
Do: Remove branches and sticks that have fallen on the path.

Access
To access Selden Creek Preserve and the Ravine Trail, parking is located on the west side of Joshuatown Road, about 4 miles north of the intersection of Joshuatown Road and Rte. 156. About 1 mile further north, a driveway on the right leads to a few parking spaces at the Selden Cemetery parking lot. Non-motorized travel is allowed on a half-mile of the old Pratt Road right-of-way to access the head of the purple trail on Brockway-Hawthorne. The main parking lot for the Brockway-Hawthorne Preserve is on Brush Hill Road. About 1/2 mile south of Hadlyme Four Corners. There is roadside parking on Mitchell Hill Road at the eastern entrance to the Ravine Trail.

Selden Creek Preserve
The Nature Conservancy (TNC) owns the 207-acre Selden Creek Preserve on the west side of Joshuatown Road. One of the most biologically significant sites on the lower Connecticut River, the Selden Creek Preserve takes its name from the creek that divides it from the 600-acre Selden Neck State Park. With wooded hills and pristine freshwater tidal marshes, it provides vital habitat for many plants and animals, including songbirds, shorebirds and rails, and is also a critical stop for wintering bald eagles. Both the Selden white (SW) and the Selden blue (SB) trails lead to overlooks on spectacular vertical cliffs above the wetlands that provide dramatic vistas of the marshes and the creek.

The Ravine Trail
On the east side of Joshuatown Road, the Ravine Trail is shared by TNC and the Lyme Land Conservation Trust (LLCT). The B-H white trail (BW) follows an old farm road with abundant mountain laurel. To the right on the red ravine trail, stone seats provide respite for the hiker beside a very large boulder with common polypody fern growing on its top. The yellow trail provides an easy loop back through the woodlands to Joshuatown Road. With the demise of the hemlocks due to the invasive woolly adelgid, the hardwood trees including red oak, white oak, yellow birch, and sugar maple thrive here. Continuing on the red trail, steep cliffs tower on either side of a small tributary stream. There is a well-defined drainage divide in this ravine where water flows north to Whalebone Cove on one side, and south to Joshua Creek on the other side. Be sure to take a side trip on the blue trails for overlooks of the old beaver meadow. The beavers have abandoned the dam and a successional forest is emerging.

Brockway-Hawthorne Preserve
The 82-acre Brockway-Hawthorne Preserve, owned by the LLCT, helps protect the Whalebone Cove watershed. The white, purple and orange trails meander along or cross Whalebone Creek. Vital wetlands, including several vernal pools, support a healthy population of amphibians, and other flora and fauna. Also here are stands of healthy hemlocks that escaped the scourge of the woolly adelgid, amid mature hardwood trees and thickets of mountain laurel. From the Brush Hill Road parking lot, the loop of B-H white trail (BW) onto yellow trail and back, provides a delightful 0.8 mile-long walk over a natural open savannah-like terrain with evidence of past human activity. Ancient oak trees still stand guard over the former pasture land bordered by stone walls and an old abandoned quarry.

Report any comments or problems during your visit to The Nature Conservancy at ct@tnc.org or fill out a LLCT trail report: http://www.lymelandtrust.org/trail-report/