

About the Preserve

Chestnut Hill Preserve: 43 acres,

Directions: 41 23'00.26 N, 72 19'44.50 W
Park along Sterling Hill Road. The trail head is marked with a large sign.

Trails: The orange trail joins the Nehantic State Forest trail system to loop back to Sterling Hill Road for an easy to moderate hike about 1 mile long. To extend the hike to about 3 moderately easy miles, take a right onto the forest road at the end of the orange trail and walk to Uncas Lake and back. The yellow trail offers a beautiful walk lined with mountain laurel which leads to another unblazed forest trail to provide an opportunity for further exploration into the State Forest.

CHARACTERISTICS:

The Chestnut Hill Preserve is surrounded by the Nehantic State Forest and Lyme Land Trust easement properties. The land is striking, with dramatic stone ledges, flowing streams, well-preserved stone walls and seasonal views of the rural surroundings. According to the Connecticut Natural Diversity Database, State and Federal Listed species and significant natural communities are known to exist in the abutting State Forest and may potentially be found on this property. The wetlands and streams that drain this property are part of the Falls Brook Watershed which feeds the nationally-recognized Wild & Scenic Eightmile River.

Chestnut Hill Preserve is between 170 and 250 feet above sea level. The area is predominantly oak/hickory forest type. The wetlands and low lying areas contain tulip poplar, red maple and an understory of mountain laurel, sweet pepperbush, and fortunately, very

few invasive plant species. A small stand of cedar grows along the ridge near the eastern boundary.

Brief History: Stonewalls can be found throughout the property, suggesting that the property was farmed in the past. It may have been used for grazing animals. The majority of the property has reverted to forest which is approximately 70- 90 years old.

Memorial Bench: A memorial bench honoring H. Templeton Brown has been placed in Chestnut Hill Preserve to provide a view of a small waterfall that he loved. H. Templeton Brown (1930-2012), served on the Board from 2003-2012. "Temp" had the ability to reach out and engage people and the patience to work with them to develop the best plan for the preservation of the land they owned and loved.

GEOCACHING:

There is a geocache on the Preserve. A geocache is a free real-world outdoor treasure hunt. Players try to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, using a smartphone or GPS and then share their experiences online. For more information, go to: www.geocaching.com

For more preserve maps, information about the Lyme Land Conservation Trust or to become a member, please visit our website at: lymelandtrust.org or write us at Lyme Land Conservation Trust, P.O. Box 1002, Lyme, CT 06371.



Report any problems during your visit on the Trail Condition Form:

www.lymelandtrust.org

TRAILS OF LYME Chestnut Hill Preserve



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

Chestnut Hill Preserve was acquired by the Lyme Land Trust in two parts. The first 40 acres was acquired in 2011 from the Talcott family in part with funds from the CT DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program, the HJ Promise Foundation and private contributions. The second 3-acre parcel was given to the Land Trust as part of a subdivision set-aside required by the Town of Lyme for approval of the subdivision along Sterling Hill Road. The name was chosen because historic deeds on neighboring farmsteads refer to the area as Chestnut Hill.

ALLOWED ACTIVITIES:

Chestnut Hill Preserve is open from sunrise to sunset.

It is open for hiking, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, bicycling and other non-motorized activities.

Dogs should be leashed or under close control at all time.

Hunting is allowed with a signed consent form.



Lyme Land Conservation Trust

CHESTNUT HILL PRESERVE

-  ORANGE TRAIL
-  YELLOW TRAIL
-  UNBLAZED FOREST ROAD
-  UNBLAZED FOREST TRAILS
-  NEHANTIC STATE FOREST
-  BRIDGE
-  STONE WALLS
-  WETLANDS
-  INTERMITTENT STREAM
-  PRESERVE BOUNDARY
-  TRAILHEAD
-  PARKING

