



Firearm hunting is allowed in Nehantic State Forest mid-Nov. through Dec.
No Hunting on Sunday



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
White Trails-foot travel only

- GOODWIN TRAIL 1.7 miles
- PARK ROAD 1.4 miles one way (purple) (no motorized vehicles)
- HERITAGE TRAIL: 2.9 miles (orange)
- Interpretive Trail Stations on Heritage Trail
- 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 / MAP
- SCHOOL ROOM / PICNIC SITE
- PORTA-POTTY
- PRESERVE BOUNDARY
- TOWN BOUNDARY
- NEHANTIC STATE FOREST BOUNDARY
- BENCH

Topo Contour 10 feet



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 American Indian 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 Although the land has been undeveloped for more than 100 years and the cleared pastures have been replaced by mature forests, there is still evidence of this once active agricultural community.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 for us by inhabitants from long ago.

THE HERITAGE TRAIL (orange) Hartman Park–Self-Guided Walk 2.9 miles. There are many connecting trails if you wish to do a shorter loop of the trail. The climb to Chapman Ridge is steep. An easier route is to take the blue trail.

- ① **STONEWORK** As you walk through the parks, notice the beautiful stone walls and other structures. Many of these are remnants of the agriculture practiced after European contact. The purpose of some of the structures, like cairns (organized stone piles) and stone walls on ledges is not so obvious. It is very likely they were ceremonial stonework left behind by the indigenous population that lived here pre-contact.
- ② **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.

- ③ **LEE BARN** The multi-story barn is believed to have been built after 1840 based upon the feather and wedge technology used to split the stones for the foundation.
- ④ **LEE FARMHOUSE** 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 activities.
- ⑤ **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.
- ⑥ **FIREPLACE** This fireplace is all that remains of a hut, probably of a charcoal kiln tender.
- ⑦ **CLARK FARM** The house ruins, now a pile of rocks, marks the farm of Dan Clark Jr. The foundation of an outbuilding, probably a barn, is on the other side of the road.
- ⑧ **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 mound where charcoal was made.
- ⑨ **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 foundations of houses built at Plymouth Plantation in the 1620s. One theory based upon historical evidence is that the complex was one of the forts built by Lion Gardiner around 1635 for the defense of the Saybrook Colony. Based upon the style of stonework, it is very possible that the original stone structures were built thousands of years ago by indigenous people and then adapted for other uses post-contact.
- ⑩ **STONE STRUCTURE** A large boulder was utilized as one wall in this stone enclosure that may have been erected pre-contact for ceremonial purposes and later adapted to agricultural use. With the addition of a roof, it may have been a barn that housed sheep or pigs. Unfortunately, sheep and swine

can be very destructive to the landscape, causing erosion and loss of vegetation which contributed to the degradation of the land for agricultural use.

- ⑪ **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.

For a more detailed guide, see The Heritage Trail Booklet by Marianne Pfeiffer, available online at lymelandtrust.org.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

PARK ROAD (purple) 1.4 miles one way. No motorized vehicles allowed. Park Road is the original highway to New London and Colchester 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 by the beaver pond 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.

CAIRNS On the Goodwin Trail in the northeast corner of Hartman Park, there are many small cairns—piles of stones. Their original purpose is lost, but it is likely they were placed here by indigenous people many years ago. Mohegans still practice the tradition of memory rock piles to memorialize people, locations or events.

CEDAR GROVE–WALBRIDGE WOODLANDS. From Hartman, follow the Lee Farm Road (yellow) to the white trail. There you will see a red cedar grove. Red cedar trees are an indication that this was once pasture land. Recently, deciduous trees that overtopped them were removed to give the cedars access to sunlight, vital for their survival. The grove is mowed every year to maintain the open field.

BLUE TRAIL OVERLOOKS–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, named Folly Point because the former owner’s plan to build on it was considered “folly”.



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.

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 feature many points of interest.

THE SCHOOL ROOM is a gathering area that overlooks the beaver pond. There are several picnic tables and a bench. Maps and information are posted here. Chalk messages are welcome on the blackboard.

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 with a lovely walk along the pond. It continues past an open field and up onto ridges. 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.

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.

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 helped with natural preservation initiatives along Connecticut’s shorelines.

THE TRAILS feature a ridge with seasonal views of the surrounding forests, beautiful stone walls, and striking stone outcroppings.

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.

THE TRAILS have a variety of habitats with beautiful thickets of mountain laurel, verdant wetlands, dramatic stone cliffs, and mature forest.

Lyme Corner Trails

- Preserves are open from sunrise to sunset.
- Dogs must be leashed or 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.

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, 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.

Goodwin Trail

The Richard H. Goodwin Trail, overseen by the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee, is an extended trail system crossing four towns: East Haddam, Salem, Lyme and East Lyme. For map: eightmileriver.org

For additional maps visit www.lymelandtrust.org.

YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED

To contribute to maintenance of the parks, please send a check to Town of Lyme, 480 Hamburg Road, Lyme CT 06371, in memo line: Hartman Park Fund
Or go to www.lymelandtrust.org, click on “DONATE”

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

