

# HADLYME HILLS

Selden Creek Preserve

Ravine Trail

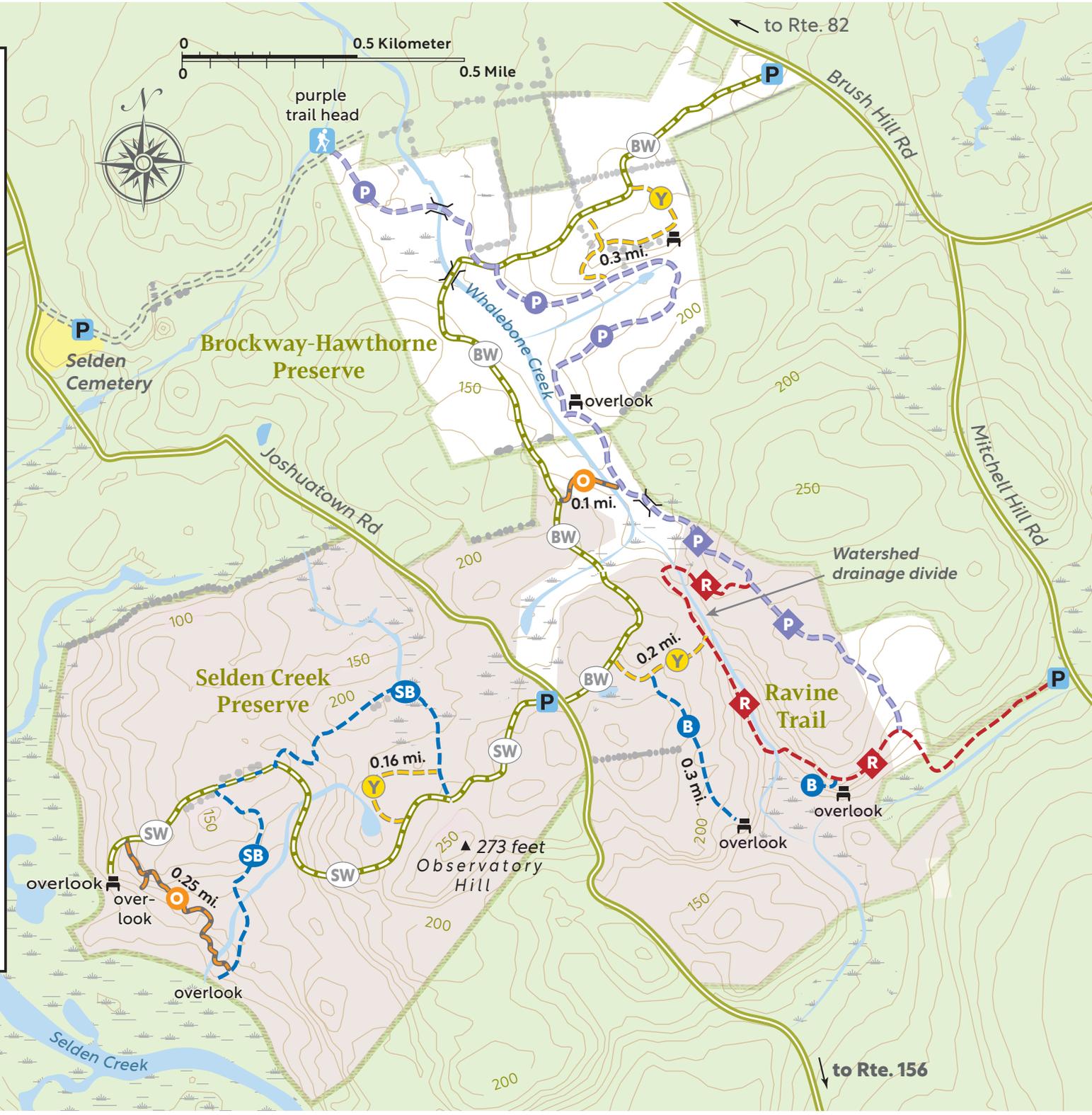
Brockway-Hawthorne Preserve (B-H)

Mileage measures length of trail.  
Distances are estimates.

-  **SELDEN BLUE TRAIL** 0.6 mile
-  **BLUE Trails to overlooks**
-  **SELDEN WHITE TRAIL** 0.8 mile
-  **B-H WHITE TRAIL** 1.2 mile
-  **RAVINE TRAIL** 0.8 mile
-  **PURPLE TRAIL** 1.5 mile
-  **Challenging Terrain**
-  **ORANGE Connector Trails**
-  **YELLOW Trails**
-  **PRESERVE BOUNDARY**
-  **TNC PROPERTY**
-  **LLCT PROPERTY**
-  **BENCH**
-  **BRIDGE**
-  **PARKING**
-  **WETLANDS**



For general reference only 07/07/22



# THE PRESERVES

- Preserves are open from sunrise to dusk.
- No motorized vehicles or fires are allowed.
- Most of the hiking trails are moderately easy, with more challenging rocky, hilly terrain on the red trail and portions of the purple 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, and is also a critical site for wintering bald eagles. Both the Selden white (SW) and the Selden blue (SB) trails lead to overlooks on spectacular vertical cliffs above the Selden Creek wetlands. The orange trail connects the two overlooks.

## The Ravine Trail

On the east side of Joshuatown Road, the Ravine Trail is shared by TNC and the Lyme Land Trust (LLT). The B-H white trail (BW) follows an old farm road that leads into the Brockway-Hawthorne Preserve. With the demise of the hemlocks in this preserve due to the invasive woolly adelgid, hardwood trees thrive. Turn onto the yellow trail for an easy route to the ravine. The red trail is a challenging route which travels through a deep ravine with steep cliffs on either side. It traverses a watershed drainage divide from which the stream water flows north to Whalebone Cove and south to Joshua Creek. The blue trails provide overlooks over an abandoned beaver pond,

## Brockway-Hawthorne Preserve

The 82-acre Brockway-Hawthorne Preserve, owned by the LLT, helps protect the Whalebone Cove watershed. Vital wetlands, including several vernal pools, support a flourishing population of amphibians. 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 white trail (BW) onto yellow trail and back provides a delightful 0.8 mile walk, Ancient oak trees still stand guard over the former pasture land bordered by stone walls and an old abandoned quarry.

**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.

**Stonework etiquette** The stone walls and stone structures that lace the area are a beautiful legacy left by inhabitants from long ago. Please leave them undisturbed in the woods. Treat them with respect for the significance that they once held for the people who built them. Artifacts and their placement tell a story. Digging, removing them, altering the placement, or adding stones destroys the story forever. Climbing on or toppling rocks can cause considerable damage to walls and structures already exposed to a great many threats.

## Please help us maintain the trails.

Carry clippers and a small bag for trash.

**Do:** Cut back plants that are encroaching on the path. Cut saplings (baby trees) low to the ground or leave waist high. Don't leave trip hazards.

**Do:** Remove branches that have fallen on the path.

**Do:** Remove invasive plants. It is most helpful to remove isolated plants before they spread.

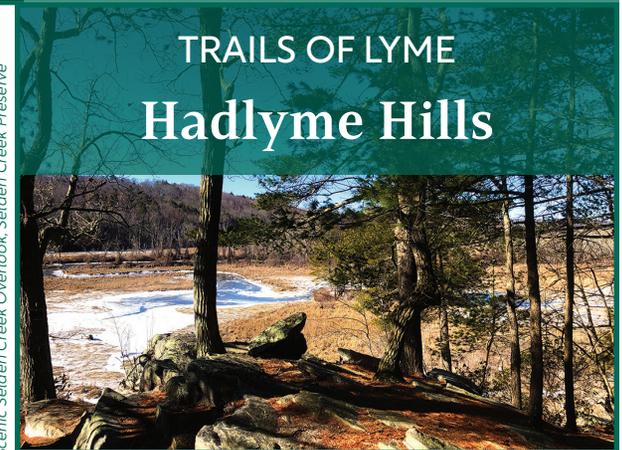
**Do:** Leave the leaves on the trails. Please don't use a leaf blower. The leaves will break down on their own and help prevent trail erosion.

**To support land conservation, donate to the Lyme Land Trust.  
Visit [lymelandtrust.org](http://lymelandtrust.org).**

*Report any comments or problems during your visit to Lyme Land Trust. Fill out a LLT trail report at [lymelandtrust.org](http://lymelandtrust.org).*

07/07/22

Photo by Colleen Doshna. Scenic Selden Creek Overlook, Selden Creek Preserve



## TRAILS OF LYME Hadlyme Hills

### Selden Creek Preserve Ravine Trail Brockway-Hawthorne Preserve

This unique network of trails traverses an amazing variety of vibrant natural habitats on 476 acres. The three contiguous preserves together protect vital watershed resources.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) established the **Selden Creek Preserve** in 1986 through an initial purchase of 55 acres from the late Ferdinand W. Coudert. In 1995, TNC purchased an additional 152 acres. **The Ravine Trail**, on the other side of Joshuatown Road, originated from a donation of 13 acres to the Lyme Land Trust (LLT) in 1991. In 1998 Ron Phillips donated 9 acres off Mitchell Hill Road to the LLT. Abutting this parcel is the 70 acres that TNC purchased in 2000 in a bargain sale, from Tai Soo Kim and Stanley Fellman, and 6 acres purchased in 2001 from Dr. Clement E. Marks Jr. and the estate of Michael Mercurio. The 82-acre **Brockway-Hawthorne Preserve** was purchased by the LLT in 2017, in a bargain sale from William and Anna Hawthorne, with funds from the CT DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program, the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, and members of the community, including the Hadlyme Challenge Grant spearheaded by a lead donor.