





**PLIMPTON PRESERVE**

-  RED TRAIL (1.4 MILES)
-  PRESERVE BOUNDARY
-  OTHER OPEN SPACE
-  PARKING
-  MAP

*Topo Contour 10 ft* **Lyme Land Trust** 

For general reference only 12/31/21

# THE TRAIL

## Access

The trail entrance is on the north side of Sterling City Road about 1/2 mile from the Lyme Congregational Church on the corner of Hamburg Road (Rte 156) and Sterling City Road. To park, pull off along the side of Sterling City Road opposite the entrance to the preserve, just past Stone Post Road. The last 0.4 miles of the trail travels through private property on an easement and exits onto Sterling City Road about 1/3 mile west of the entrance. Back to the entrance—trail plus road—is a 1.7 mile loop.

## Features

The 1.4 mile red trail works its way to the top of the first of two hills, a fairly steep 250-foot rise from Sterling City Road. From there, the trail levels and drops down gently before meandering its way up to the top of the second hill and the Overlook at an elevation of almost 300 feet. From here you can see Hamburg Cove and the Connecticut River.

Descending from the Overlook, the trail joins the route of the original Meetinghouse Hill Road as it returns to Sterling City Road. This abandoned road, which once connected to Joshuatown Road, opened in early 1700 and was not discontinued by the town until 1849. Somewhere on this road stood the first Meetinghouse (Congregational Church) of Lyme completed around 1728. Nothing now remains of this building. Meetinghouse Hill Road with Sterling City Road connected the mills of one of the earliest English settlements in Lyme, Sterling City (est. 1709), to the storefronts and shipbuilding along the Eightmile River at Reed's Landing (est. 1710) which is now Hamburg Bridge Historic District. Hamburg Road was built in 1810 and the current Lyme Congregational Church was erected on this new road in 1814. Sections of chestnut split rail fence are still visible along the old abandoned Meetinghouse Hill Road.

Much of this preserve is a mixed hardwood forest, including oak, beech, hickory, birch and maple trees, with remnant red cedar and open grown white oaks, indicating its earlier use as pasture.

## Please help us maintain the trails.

Pitch in with simple maintenance. Carry clippers and a small bag for trash.

- Cut back plants that are encroaching on the path.
- Cut saplings (baby trees) low to the ground or leave waist high. Do not leave trip hazards or spikes for people to fall on.
- Remove branches and sticks that have fallen on the path.

Learn to recognize invasive plants and remove them when possible. It is most helpful to remove isolated invasive plants in the woods before they spread.

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

Sign up to become a trail or preserve steward. Visit [lymelandtrust.org](http://lymelandtrust.org).

## Hunting

Hunting is allowed with a written permit signed by the Open Space Coordinator of the Town of Lyme. Wear bright colors while hiking anywhere in Lyme during hunting seasons mid-September until the end of January and mid-April to mid-May.

During deer firearm season, mid-November through most of December, Plimpton Preserve is closed Monday through Friday for hunting.

*Fill out a Trail Report Form to let us know about problems during your visit. Visit [lymelandtrust.org](http://lymelandtrust.org).*

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

## TRAILS OF LYME

# Elizabeth Plimpton Memorial Preserve



Photo by Regan Stacey, The Overlook, Plimpton Preserve

The Lyme Land Trust purchased this 80-acre preserve from Ken Plimpton at a bargain sale in 2001. It was named in honor of his late wife. Both Ken and Elizabeth grew up in Lyme. She was a descendant of Lyme's earliest settlers and Lyme town historian from 1987 to 1993. She co-authored a book, *Vital Statistics of Saybrook*, which includes Lyme's early history.

The Lyme Land Trust Stewardship Committee created, cleared, and marked a trail for an inaugural walk on October 27, 2002, led by ecologist Anthony Irving. A portion of this trail travels through private property on which the late Ken Plimpton granted an easement for the trail.

- The Plimpton Preserve is open from sunrise to dusk.
- The trail provides opportunities for hiking, snowshoeing, and wildlife viewing.
- Please respect the environment. Carry out what you bring in.
- Do not disturb native vegetation, stone walls, and ancient stone structures.