

The Trails

ACCESS: The properties, part of a larger system of trails known as the River to Ridgetop Preserves, are on the south side of Mount Archer Road. The entrance kiosk and parking lot for **Mount Archer Woods** is on Mt. Archer Road about 1.25 miles from the intersection of Mt. Archer Road and Route 156 and 2/3 of a mile from the intersection of Brush Hill and Tantumorantum Roads. The Eno Preserve entrance is about 1/4 of a mile west on the south side of Mt. Archer Road. Access to Pickwick's Preserve is from 183 Joshuatown Road. Go about 0.4 mile down the driveway and park at the gate on the right.

TRAILS: There are five trails on the properties: white (2 mi), yellow (1.2 mi), red (0.8 mi), blue (0.4 mi) and orange (0.5mi). Both ends of the white trail connect to trails in the Jewett Preserve north of Mount Archer Road. The orange trail completes a loop between either end of the white trail south of Mt. Archer Road. The trails are well suited to easy hiking and crosscountry skiing. The white and yellow trails are multiuse, for non-motorized bicycle and equestrian access. There is no horse trailer parking.

The George and Rosemary Moore Trail, named to honor the Moores' years of service towards land preservation in Lyme, uses existing trails to provide a 9.3-mile scenic loop in the contiguous preserves of the River to Ridgetop complex. It passes through several properties owned and/or managed cooperatively by the Lyme Land Trust, Town of Lyme and The Nature Conservancy. The portion south of Mt. Archer Road is about 2.8 miles long.

Dogs are welcome. Keep them leashed or under close control.

Czikowsky Hill, owned since 2010 by the Town of Lyme and The Nature Conservancy with a Lyme Land Trust easement, is a wildlife sanctuary with no marked trails – to minimize human disturbance. Hiking is allowed.

FEATURES: All trails cover relatively flat terrain over one of the highest points in Lyme. In spite of the elevation, there are several wet spots and vernal pools. Due to the perched water table, especially near the white trail, the forest vegetation resembles that more characteristically associated with moist lowlands. Of note are several stands of large tulip poplar trees in the Eno Preserve. On the yellow and red trails the vegetation is more typical of dry hilltops. Stone walls and rock piles indicate that much of the land was originally used for pasture. At the southeastern end of the white trail, take note of the stone ruins that go back to the early 18th century. These are remnants of a colonial farm homestead with pasture stone walls lining the paths of colonial road systems.

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.

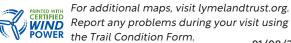
Do: Remove branches and sticks that have fallen on the path.

Do: Leave the leaves on the trail to prevent erosion. Do: Volunteer to become a trail steward.

HUNTING is allowed on the preserves with a written permit. During deer firearm season, mid-November through most of December, these preserves are closed Monday through Friday for hunting. Wear bright colors during all the deer and turkey hunting seasons.

To support land conservation, donate to the Lyme Land Trust. Visit lymelandtrust.org.

To donate to Town of Lyme preserves, send a check to Town of Lyme with notation for allocation to the Open Space Maintenance Fund.



01/08/24

TRAILS OF LYME **RIVER TO RIDGETOP SOUTH**

Eno Preserve Mt. Archer Woods **Pickwick's Preserve**



Photo by Rochelle Davis, Tulip Tree on a Fall Morning

The 101-acre Chauncey Eno Preserve, named for the late owner of the property and former first selectman of Lyme, was acquired by the Lyme Land Trust in 1998 through private donations. Mount Archer **Woods** is a Town of Lyme-owned 275-acre property, purchased in 2003 with private donations and funding from the Town of Lyme, the State of Connecticut and The Nature Conservancy. In 2006, an anonymous donor purchased and donated an easement on the 18-acre Pickwick's Preserve, providing access to the trails from Joshuatown Road. The preserve was named for the donor's Shetland sheepdog, an avid hiker of Lyme's woodlands.

The preserves are open sunrise to sunset.

Be considerate of other hikers and wildlife in the preserve. Do not disturb or remove any native plants, stone strcutures, or artifacts.

No motorized vehicles or fires allowed.