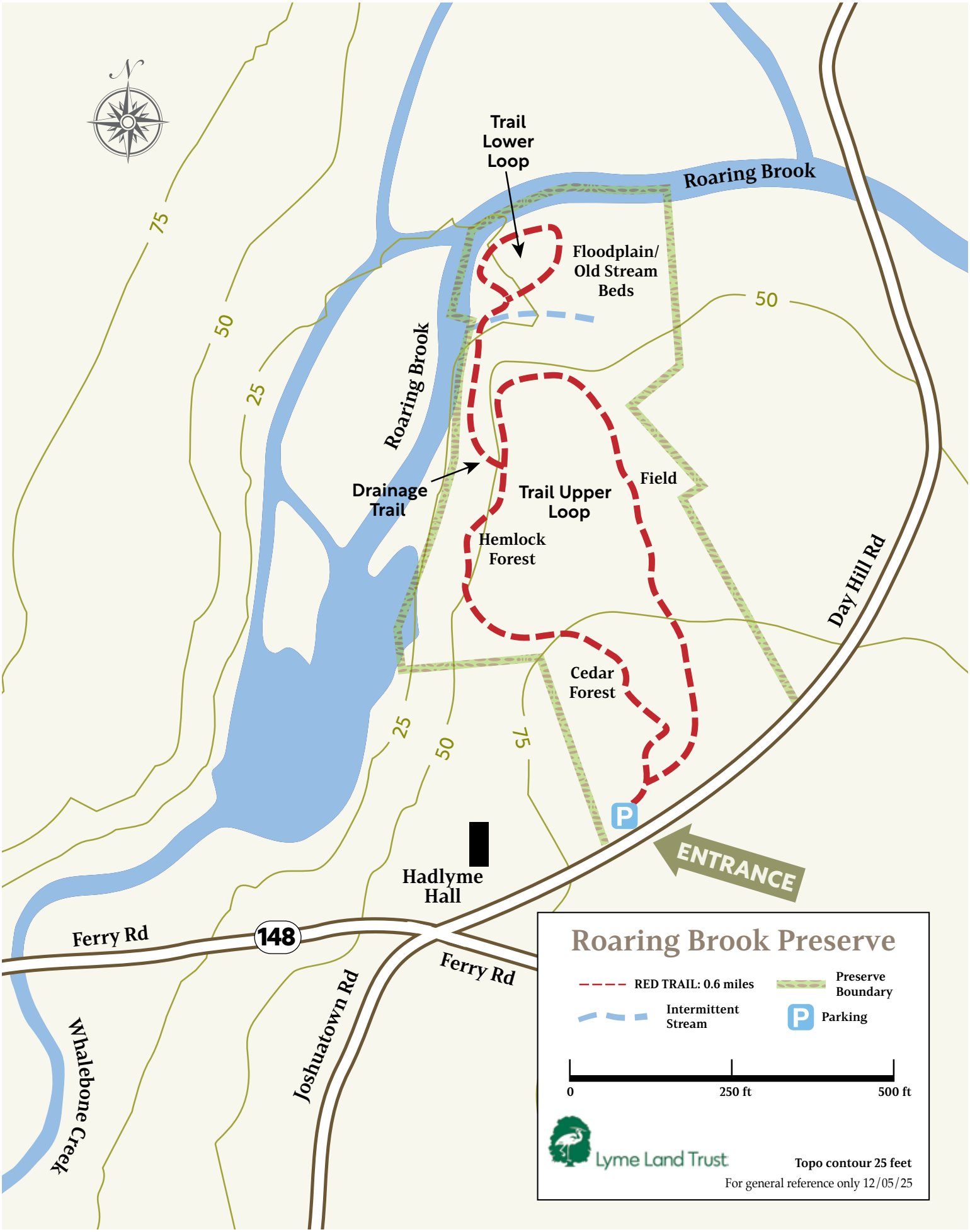

Trail
Lower
Loop
Roaring Brook
Floodplain/
Old Stream
Beds
75
50
25
50
Roaring Brook
Drainage
Trail
Trail Upper
Loop
Field
Hemlock
Forest
Day Hill Rd
Cedar
Forest
25
50
75
P
ENTRANCE
Hadlyme
Hall
Ferry Rd
148
Ferry Rd
Joshuatown Rd
Whalebone Creek
Roaring Brook Preserve
RED TRAIL: 0.6 miles
Preserve
Boundary
Intermittent
Stream
P
Parking
0
250 ft
500 ft
Lyme Land Trust
Topo contour 25 feet
For general reference only 12/05/25

Roaring Brook Preserve

Access:

The trailhead for Roaring Brook Preserve is on Day Hill Road, about 300 feet from the intersection with Ferry Road (Rte 148). Pull-in to the small parking lot on the west side of the road or park along the side of the road.

The Trail:

The 0.6-mile trail is marked by red blazes. The upper loop of the trail is an easy walk with a fairly flat dirt path. The short steep drainage trail leading down to Roaring Brook follows a natural stormwater runoff ditch. It may be impassable during very wet periods. The lower loop of the trail follows the edge of the brook and circles around through the floodplain. During periods of heavy rain or snow melt, the stream may overflow into this floodplain.

Features

Eastern Red Cedar Forest: Walking the upper loop clockwise from the trail head, you enter a grove of Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), evidence of past agricultural activity. Red Cedar is a "pioneer" species, one of our native evergreen trees. It is one of the first trees to grow up in the open sun of an abandoned farm field. Notice the old cedar fence posts that represent the boundary of the former field. Red cedars prefer sandy, well-drained soils. Many species of birds like to eat the blue berries of the cedar.

Hemlock Forest: The preserve hosts a rare stand of Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) along the steep slopes of Roaring Brook. It is called a "climax" species because it grows slowly, eventually replacing quicker growing pioneer species that require full sun. The wooly adelgid, an invasive aphid from northeast Asia, has become a widespread pest of the hemlock in the eastern U.S., killing large stands of trees. The hemlocks on this site are relatively healthy because they are in a climate that suits them well, moist and shady.

Sand and Gravel Terraces: Looking down the slopes from the upper loop of the trail, one can see Roaring Brook and the floodplain below. The surface that you are standing on is the top of a glacial deposit dating back to the melting of the last glacier that covered Connecticut. As the glacier melted 20,000 years ago, it filled the Roaring Brook valley with sand and gravel. Since then, the water of Roaring Brook has cut down through this deposit to create its current stream bed.

Roaring Brook: The character of the brook changes with the seasons and climate conditions. Most of the time, its calm babbling waters impart tranquility and cool comfort. During a spring freshet when there is heavy rainfall and/or snow melt, or when there is a unseasonable flood, the brook lives up to its name as the water roars through the channel and overflows into the floodplain.

Over time the stream route changes course. As you walk the lower trail loop, you can see several long depressions that are previous channels of the brook and its tributaries. Course changes result when fast-moving water carries sediments downstream. When water movement slows, sediment is deposited. As Roaring Brook goes around a bend, the water travels fastest on the outer edge of the bend, causing erosion along the bank, called an "undercut". Water moves more slowly on the inside of the bend, causing sediment deposition on this bank, called a "bar".

The exposed bedrock in the brook is the result of a geologic process called plate tectonics. 300 million years ago, the tectonic plates of Avalonia and North America collided. The rocks of the land masses were crushed and heated or "metamorphosed". The metamorphic rock here is called gneiss (pronounced "nice") and is made up of light and dark bands of different minerals.

Field: The field is a remnant from earlier times. It still retains field characteristics with several grasses and herbaceous plants growing there. Various species of shrubs and trees are beginning to establish themselves. Some of these are: Gray Birch *(Betula populifolia)*, Quaking Aspen *(Populus tremuloides)*, Blueberry *(Vaccinium sp.)*, and Bayberry *(Myrica pensylvanica)*, Several specimens of pine are present: Eastern White Pine *(Pinus Strobus)*, the once common but rarely seen Pitch Pine (Pinus Rigidi), and Shortleaf Pine *(Pinus echinata)* are represented. Pines retain their needles yearlong and provide winter shelter for birds and other wildlife

To support land conservation, donate to the Lyme Land Trust.
Visit lymelandtrust.org
or contact us at P.O. Box 1002, Lyme CT 06371

Report any comments or problems during your visit to Lyme Land Trust. Fill out a trail report at lymelandtrust.org.

12/28/25

TRAILS OF LYME

Roaring Brook Preserve



Roaring Brook by Wendolyn Hill

Roaring Brook Preserve is a 7.2 acre gem which features the refreshing waterway after which it is named. Roaring Brook is part of the preserve, accessed by the steep drainage trail and lower trail loop on the northern and western border of the preserve. Overhanging slopes provide beautiful views of the brook from the easy upper trail loop. It packs a variety of wildlife, habitats, and geologic features into a compact space.

Originally slated to be part of a small subdivision, it was donated by Henry Clinton to the Lyme Land Trust in three lots in 1999 and 2001. Thanks to his generosity, this valuable land will be preserved forever to protect the watershed of Whalebone Cove. A short distance to the south of the preserve, after the Roaring Brook waterway flows past the preserve, it merges into the tidal Whalebone Creek and Whalebone Cove, which ultimately feeds into the Connecticut River.

- The preserve is open from sunrise to dusk.
- The upper and lower loops of the hiking trail are fairly flat. The drainage trail is steep.
- No motorized vehicles or fires are allowed.
- Keep dogs leashed or under close control at all times.
- Do not disturb native vegetation.
- Carry out what you bring in.