

New Corner Trails Unite Three Preserves: Brochure and Map Now Available

By Wendolyn Hill

A new color brochure and map is available for the trails that traverse three contiguous preserves on Gungy Road: Hartman Park, Walbridge Woodlands, and Young Preserve. The 430-acre area has been named the “Lyme Corner Trails” because it’s nestled in the northeast corner of Lyme. More than twelve miles of trails provide opportunities for wildlife viewing, hiking, non-motorized biking, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding through areas of diverse natural habitat. This preserve also creates a valuable wildlife corridor in combination with surrounding protected land: Nehantic State Forest in East Lyme to the east, the Beebe Preserve to the south, and to the west hundreds of acres of privately-owned woodlands protected by deeded conservation easements.

Updates and improvements have been made to the existing Hartman Park trail system, which is based on the trail map created by Marianne Pfeiffer and Jeanne Thompson in the late 1980s. Lisa Niccolai, the environmental director of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, plotted the trails to create the unified trail system. Wendolyn Hill updated the brochure based upon the original town-wide brochure design created by Lisa Reneson.

The overall trail system has been simplified and signage is planned to aid in navigating the trails. Improvements include:

- 1.) Trails have been overlaid on a topographical map with a 10-foot contour.
- 2.) Overlapping colors of trail markers in Hartman Park have been eliminated as much as possible.
- 3.) Labeling has been simplified.
- 4.) A few trails have been abandoned to simplify maintenance and navigation, including the pink trail, which is perpetually flooded by beaver activity.
- 5.) The Park Trail now has purple blazes. Signs have been placed at intersections directing people to the Hartman Park entrance.
- 6.) The Lyme portion of the Richard H. Goodwin Trail has been added to the map. Overseen by the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee, this extended trail system crosses East Haddam, Salem, Lyme and East Lyme. A future goal is to connect it to other existing trail systems in surrounding towns.

