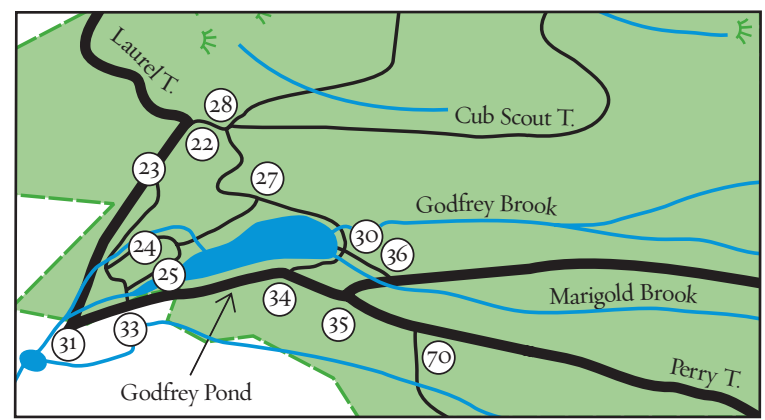
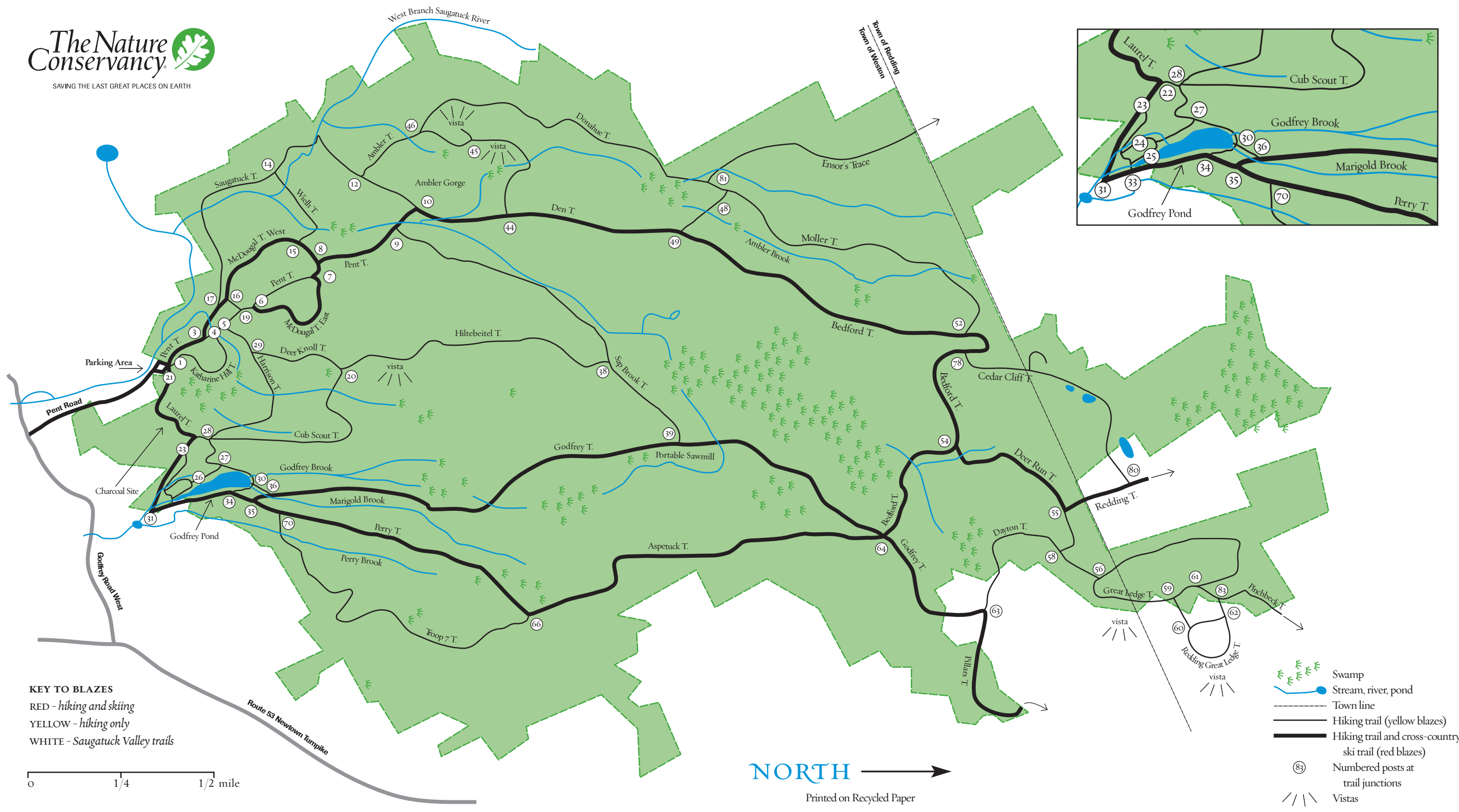


# trail map



LUCIUS POND ORDWAY-  
 DEVIL'S DEN PRESERVE  
 WESTON, CONNECTICUT



## THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S MISSION:

*To preserve plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.*

## THE DEN'S MISSION:

*To protect The Den's natural features and boundaries and to preserve the integrity of its ecosystem. To introduce people to this protected sanctuary and increase their knowledge and appreciation of nature.*

**The Nature Conservancy's Devil's Den Preserve**

The Nature Conservancy is an international nonprofit conservation organization that has protected more than 116 million acres of irreplaceable lands and waters in the United States, Asia Pacific, Canada, the Caribbean and Latin America.

The Nature Conservancy's Connecticut Chapter has protected more than 43,000 acres of natural lands across the state, maintains 55 local nature preserves, and has approximately 21,000 members.

**For More Information:****The Nature Conservancy's Devil's Den Preserve**

P.O. Box 1162, Weston, CT 06883  
203-226-4991 / email - theden@tnc.org

**The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter**

55 High Street, Middletown, CT 06457  
860-344-0716 / email - ct@tnc.org

**The Nature Conservancy Worldwide Office**

4245 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203  
703-841-5300 / email - comment@tnc.org  
Web site - www.nature.org

For information on guided hikes and educational programs, call The New Canaan Nature Center at 203 966-9577.

Web site - www.newcanaannature.org

**Directions to The Den** From the Merritt Parkway, take Exit 42 and travel north on Route 57 for 3.8 miles to the blinking light. Continue straight on Route 53 to the next traffic light, turn left on Godfrey Road West. Continue for 1/2 mile, then turn right on Pent Road, which ends at the preserve's main parking area.

**Special Features of The Den**

Devil's Den Preserve is the largest nature preserve in southwestern Connecticut with about 1,700 acres of woodlands, wetlands, and rugged north-south rocky ridges. Many of these ridges provide scenic overlooks of the surrounding countryside. Biologically, the preserve is valuable because it is part of a much larger forested landscape that encompasses approximately 15,000 acres of continuous forest. Over two thirds of this forest is now under conservation ownership and permanently preserved. The preserve is home to 145 species of birds, 23 species of mammals, and 475 varieties of trees and wildflowers that are characteristic of large tracts of woodland. Devil's Den is valued as a quiet place of respite where one can enjoy the peace and serenity of our eastern forest. The Den is also the site of prehistoric Native American encampments and, up to the early 1900s, charcoal production.

Some 21 miles of well-marked trails offer opportunities to visit diverse areas within The Den. Features of particular interest are Godfrey Pond, a mill pond created in the 1700s; the Saugatuck Wildlife Refuge, an extensive shrubby marsh along the West Branch of the Saugatuck River; the Great Ledge, a high rock formation with a spectacular view of the Saugatuck Reservoir; and Ambler Gorge, a picturesque ravine with a rocky cascade.

**Visitor Uses and Regulations** Because The Den is a preserve for the plants and animals that live within its borders, human activities must be restricted to passive recreation, including hiking, nature photography and bird watching. When there is sufficient snow cover (generally 1 foot), cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are permitted on trails marked with red blazes.

The Den must prohibit walking the trails with pets of any kind; entering the preserve with mechanized vehicles or bicycles; rock climbing; fishing, hunting, boating, swimming, or ice skating; horseback riding; collecting plants, animals, minerals, or artifacts; releasing any animal; smoking or building fires; camping; drinking alcoholic beverages or picnicking. We request that visitors walk only on blazed trails.

Visitors are welcome to walk the trails of The Den daily from sunrise to sunset. We ask that visitors register at the map shelter, located in the center of the parking area - registration is imperative for safety purposes and for our records. A public telephone is located at the access to Laurel Trail. Restroom facilities are not available.

Groups of 10 or more must call the office to register in advance. Guided hikes for groups may be arranged.



**Planning Your Trip** Junctions of trails are marked with numbered posts in the ground that correspond to locations on the map (see reverse). These posts also support green "lot" signs which point toward the shortest route back to the parking lot at Pent Road. Trails with red blazes are suitable for hiking or cross-country skiing; those with yellow blazes are for walking only; and white blazes indicate trails in the Saugatuck Valley Trail system linking open space properties in Weston and Redding. Be sure to take a map!

Sturdy walking or hiking shoes are recommended as many trails are rocky. We suggest these round-trip walks for your enjoyment: (1) around Godfrey Pond via Laurel Trail (1.1 miles, easy); to Ambler Gorge via Saugatuck and Ambler trails, returning via Den and Pent Trails (2.8 miles, moderate); (3) to the portable sawmill via Laurel and Godfrey trails, returning via Hildebeutel, Deer Knoll, and Pent trails (3.3 miles, moderate); (4) a grand tour of The Den via Pent, Den, and Bedford Trails, returning via Aspetuck, Perry and Laurel trails (5.6 miles, moderate).

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# membership

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Name .....

Address .....

City / State .....

Zip .....

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ .....

Please charge my contribution to my credit card.

Master Card  Visa  American Express

Card No. ....

Expiration Date .....

Signature .....

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to The Nature Conservancy and mail to:

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY  
Membership Department  
P.O. Box 97157  
Washington, DC 20077-7345

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**History of The Den** The Lucius Pond Ordway/Devil's Den Preserve is the Connecticut Chapter's largest preserve and the largest privately held tract of protected land in Fairfield County.

The Den is of historical significance; archaeological evidence indicates it was used for hunting as long as 5,000 years ago. Native Americans used overhanging rock formations for protective shelters as the semi-nomadic tribes hunted in the area.

According to historical records, David Adams sold the land to Nathaniel Squires in 1767. He is believed to have built an up-and-down sawmill during the American Revolution. The wood was used primarily to build homes for the colonists. The Godfreys bought the pond, sawmill and 4 acres from the Squires and four successive generations ran the mill for 95 years.

In the 1800s and up until about 1920, charcoal production occurred at as many as 30 sites throughout The Den. The charcoal was used for many purposes, including fueling iron forges. When technology advanced, charcoal was no longer needed as fuel. This type of charcoal production ceased.

The presence of stone walls and foundations in parts of The Den suggest that some of the land was used for agriculture, but forestry in one form or another, was always the dominant use from the late 1700's until about 1930.

Katharine Ordway, a local philanthropist, donated the funds to enable The Nature Conservancy to purchase over 1,400 acres in 1966, the original Devil's Den. Today Devil's Den is about 1,700 acres, and is visited by more than 40,000 visitors each year.

