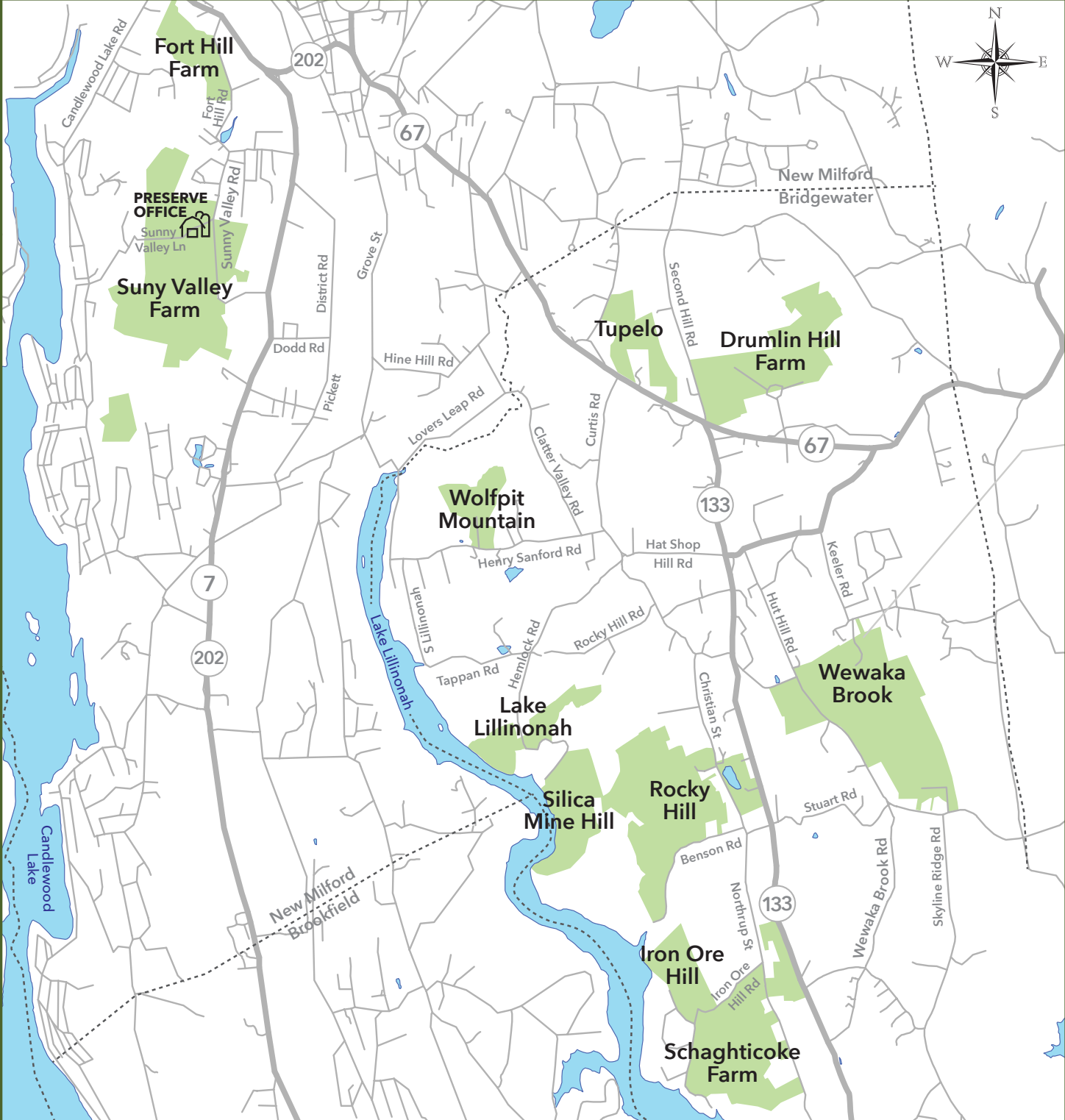
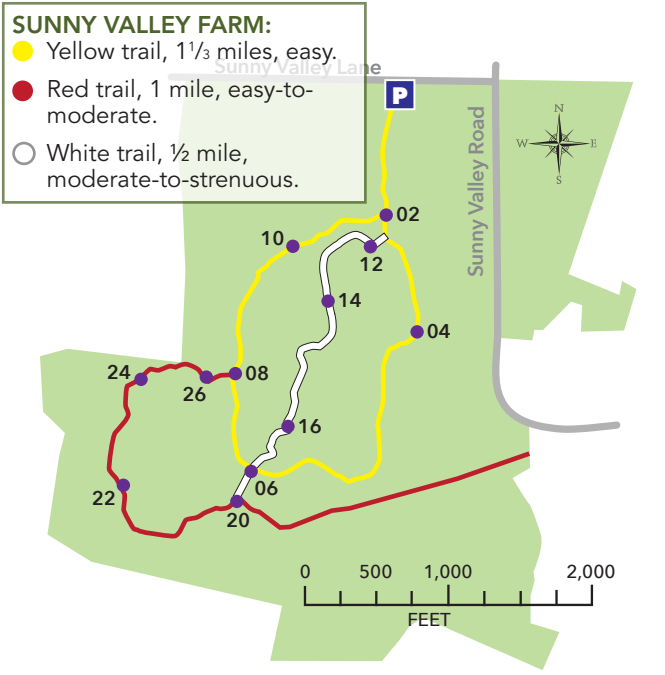


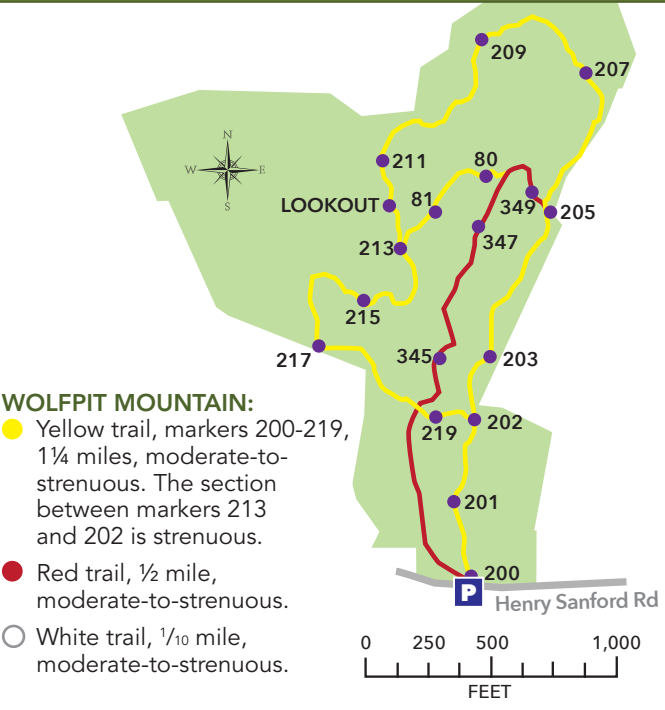
REGIONAL OVERVIEW



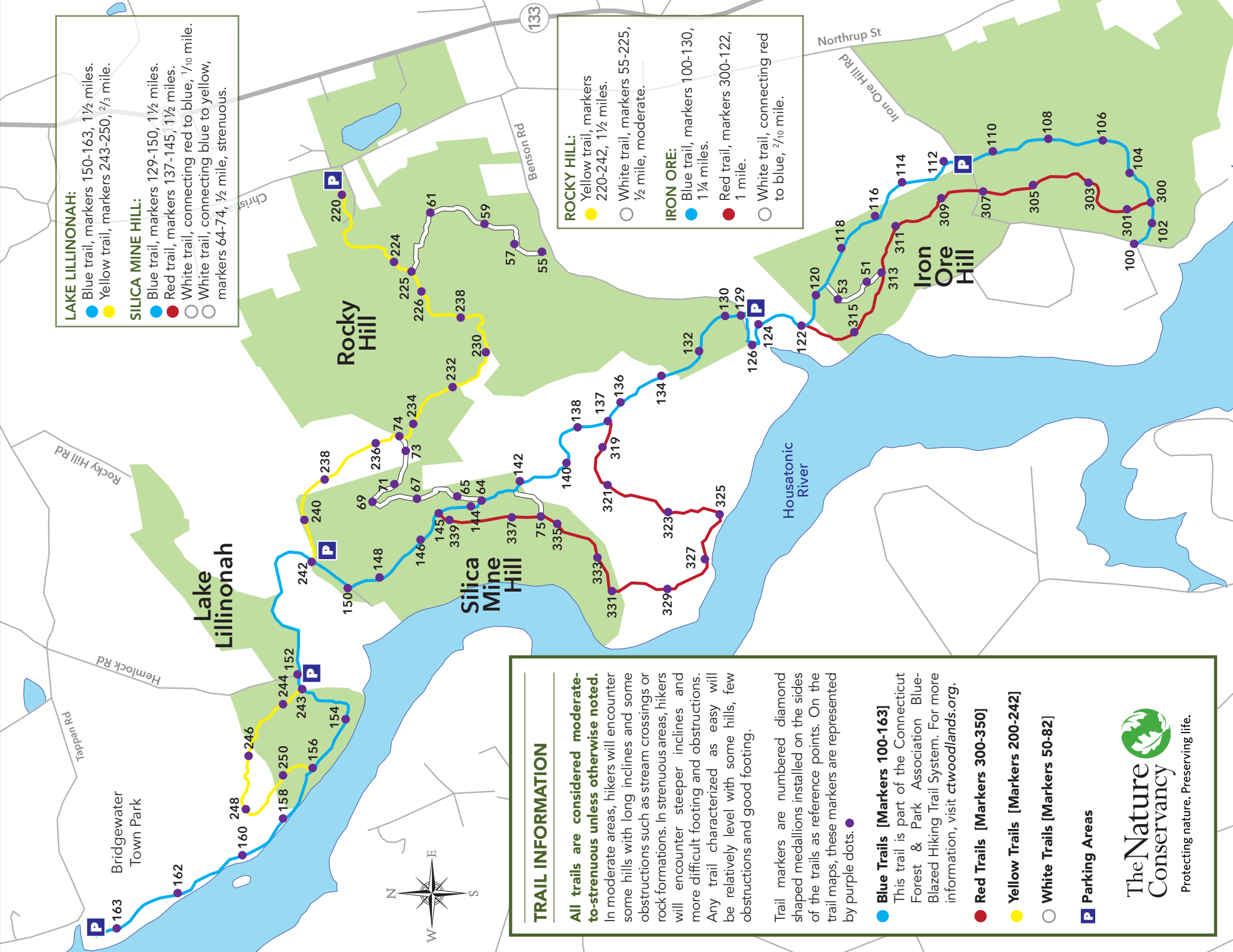
SUNNY VALLEY FARM



WOLFPIT MOUNTAIN



LAKE LILLINONAH, SILICA MINE HILL, ROCKY HILL, IRON ORE HILL





# sunny valley preserve



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© Ernie Mastroianni

The Nature Conservancy  
conserves the lands and waters  
on which all life depends.

JOIN TODAY...  
and help protect nature  
in Connecticut and  
around the world.

yes!



© Laura Shail/TNC



© Laura Shail/TNC



© Rebecca Batchie

## WELCOME!

Welcome to Sunny Valley Preserve, a unique conservation community that believes protecting the planet and feeding its growing population can go hand-in-hand.

Donated to The Nature Conservancy by George D. Pratt in 1970, Sunny Valley showcases 450 acres of working farmland managed sustainably alongside 1,450 acres of natural areas. This mixed-use approach provides healthy local foods, while also supporting outdoor recreation and wildlife habitat, thereby helping grow the local economy.

The result is one of Connecticut's most exceptional protected spaces, teeming with educational opportunities, diverse plants and animals, a strong sense of community and – yes! – working farms.

We hope you'll find Sunny Valley just as special as we do!

## ABOUT THE FARMS

One condition of Mr. Pratt's generous gift of Sunny Valley Preserve was that the farms be kept in active agriculture for as long as practical. They still produce today:

- **Sunny Valley Main Farm** – Livestock forage and bedding grasses.
- **Fort Hill Farm** – Certified organic vegetables and herbs. Community supported agriculture (CSA) program.
- **Schaghticoke Farm** – Grass-fed beef cattle, free-range chickens, pork and livestock forage. On-site farm stand.
- **Sunny Valley South** – Beef cows and calves, as well as chickens. On-site farm stand.
- **Drumlin Hill Farm** – Milk and dairy products, chickens, hay and heirloom vegetables. On-site farm stand.

## VISIT US ON OPEN FARM DAY!

To view farm operations close-up, visit the preserve for its annual Open Farm Day, held in early fall. Here you will meet the Sunny Valley community, learn about livestock and farming equipment – and have fun!

## THE BIG PICTURE

Farming is part of the heritage of communities like New Milford and Bridgewater, and today, agriculture is also a global concern. The Nature Conservancy works with farmers at Sunny Valley to protect critical habitats, use water efficiently and reduce farmland erosion.

## PROTECTING LOCAL PLANTS AND WILDLIFE

Farmers know that good land starts with its soil, and, at Sunny Valley, great natural habitats do, too.

New Milford has a predominately limestone-based, sandy, gravel soil, whereas Bridgewater's low stone walls attest to the rocks in its fields. These varied soils and terrains support diverse habitats including grasslands, shrubby areas, wetlands, ponds and woodlands.

Together, these sites support hundreds of species of plants and animals – from migrating birds that feed in the dense plant stands along riverbanks, to hawks that hunt high above the fields, to rare species such as the New England cottontail rabbit.

The Conservancy promotes farming methods that significantly reduce negative impacts to wildlife and are timed with natural lifecycles. For example, for nesting habitat, bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks and other grassland birds require high open fields where hay mowing and cattle pasturing are carefully timed to support their nesting cycles.

## VISITOR USE

- The farms are privately operated and treated as private property with public access at the farmer's discretion. For your and the animals' safety, please stay out of the fields and away from fences (some electric) and farm traffic.
- Trails are open from sunrise to sunset.
- Hiking is permitted only on blazed trails.
- Hikers under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times. Horses and other pets are not permitted.
- Mountain bikes, motorcycles, motorized vehicles and firearms are prohibited.
- Visitors may not hunt; trap; rock climb; fish; boat; swim; ice skate; collect plants, animals, minerals or artifacts; release animals; smoke; build fires; camp; or drink alcoholic beverages within the preserve.
- Please remove all trash and belongings when you leave.

## DIRECTIONS TO SUNNY VALLEY PRESERVE

From Eastern or Southwestern Connecticut:  
Take I-84 to Rt. 7 north (Exit 7). Follow Rt. 7 for 4½ miles, then turn right at the light to stay on Rt. 7. Continue about 6 miles, then turn left on Sunny Valley Road. Continue almost 1 mile, then turn left on Sunny Valley Lane. The office is the second building on the right.

From Northwestern Connecticut:  
Take Rt. 202 to New Milford, then turn left where Rt. 202 joins Rt. 7 south. Continue Rt. 202/7 for ½ mile, then turn right at the first traffic light (Sunny Valley Road). Continue ½ mile to stop sign, then bear left. Continue ½ mile then turn right onto Sunny Valley Lane. The office is the second building on the right.

## PROTECTING NATURE. PRESERVING LIFE.

The Nature Conservancy is a world leader in protecting ecologically important lands for nature and people. Working in all 50 states and more than 30 countries, we have protected more than 119 million acres of land and 5,000 miles of rivers worldwide.

Your support has allowed The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut to protect more than 50,000 acres across the state, maintain more than 60 local preserves and grow to approximately 28,000 members.

## YOUR ROLE

You can support sustainable agriculture and nature conservation by becoming a member of The Nature Conservancy today. Find out more by visiting [nature.org/connecticut](http://nature.org/connecticut), or donate directly by mailing in the card attached to this brochure.

Thank you for helping us protect nature! We hope to see you again at Sunny Valley or another Nature Conservancy preserve soon. Learn more at [nature.org/ctpreserves](http://nature.org/ctpreserves).

## VISIT US ONLINE

[Nature.org/connecticut](http://Nature.org/connecticut)  
[Nature.org/sunnyvalley](http://Nature.org/sunnyvalley)  
[Facebook.com/ct.natureconservancy](https://Facebook.com/ct.natureconservancy)

## IN THE FIELD

The Nature Conservancy's Sunny Valley Preserve  
8 Sunny Valley Lane, New Milford, CT 06776  
(860) 355 3716

The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut (State Chapter Office)  
55 Church Street, Floor 3, New Haven, CT 06510  
(203) 568 6270, [ct@tnc.org](mailto:ct@tnc.org)

**I want to help preserve Earth's precious lands and waters by making a special contribution.**

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of:

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A donation of \$10 or more grants you an annual membership to the Conservancy.

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### Please mail this form and any donation check to:

The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut  
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### or donate online at [nature.org/connecticut](http://nature.org/connecticut)

The Nature Conservancy is a private 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Annual membership dues include \$4.00 for our issues of Nature Conservancy magazine. A copy or summary of the latest Financial Report and Registration files by this organization may be obtained by contacting The Nature Conservancy at 4245 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, Virginia 22203 · (800) 628-6860

CTVPTRAILMAP

trail map  
and information

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