

Elderslie Preserve Trail System

Three adjacent sites combine to form this trail system. The 200-acre Elderslie Preserve is owned by the Town of Woodbridge and was purchased in 2000 with assistance from the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and with partial funding from the Department of Environmental Protection and the Regional Water Authority. The purchase was completed as part of TPL's Connecticut Watershed Initiative, a statewide effort to protect land surrounding active drinking water supplies as well as former and potential sources of clean drinking water.

The two other sites: the 27-acre Lodge and Milford Meadows are owned by the Woodbridge Land Trust (WLT). The Lodge Tract was donated by Miss Helen Newton whose family had owned the land since before the American Revolution.

The Lodge includes the famous trail taken by the British Regicides Dixwell, Whalley, and Goffe as they evaded Charles I's agents. According to legend, Goffe said at the spring in this area, "would to God we had a hatchet." He then looked down and immediately found a hatchet left by the Indians. Goffe and Whalley built a crude shelter here and named it Hatchet Harbor. Another notable feature on the site is the Big Boulder - one of the largest glacial erratics in the state.

Combined, the sites are a mix of woodlands, fields, and vernal ponds and is a critical link in the Woodbridge Greenway. The area includes the headwaters of the Wepawaug River and provides breeding habitat for a number of rare species, including marbled and four-toed salamanders. Glacial erratics are also visible along other portions of the trail system and Colonial foundations can be located on the Elderslie parcel adjacent to Peck Road. To the south, the trail off Orchard Road also includes a cairn, a heap of stones piled up as either a memorial or landmark. A major section of the Naugatuck Trail (blue trail) passes through Elderslie and has a northern access point on Route 67 and a southern access point at the junction of North Racebrook and Indian Trail.

Trail Description:

Easy to Hard Hike

The trail system at Elderslie Preserve offers a varying degree of difficulty. The Red trail is an easy walk, the Yellow trail is a moderate hike, the Orange trail is a hard hike and the Blue trail begins as an easy hike in the south and becomes more difficult.

Total trails distance is approx. 3.75 miles

Directions and Parking:

The main entrance and parking for the Elderslie Preserve is located on Peck Hill Road. From the Amity Shopping Center, follow Amity Road (Route 63) north approx 3.1 miles to the west/left on Seymour Road (Route 67) for 2 miles, and then left onto Peck Hill Road. A sign for the Elderslie Preserve will be on the right side with a left entrance to the parking lot.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

This land is for passive recreation use only. No motorized vehicles are permitted. Dogs are permitted on leash. Please bag and pick up all dog waste. Hunting or trapping is prohibited as well as fires, camping and picking of vegetation.



Photo By Kathy Gartland

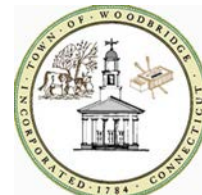
Total Trails Length: Approx. 3.75 miles

Red Trail: 0.75 miles. Easy Walk

Yellow Trail: 1.0 miles. Moderate

Orange Trail: 0.5 miles. Hard Hike

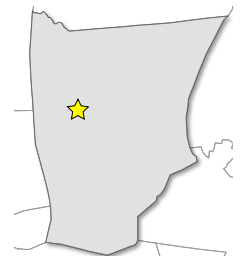
Blue Trail: 1.75 miles. Difficult at northern end to moderate mid-way to easy walk at the south entrance.



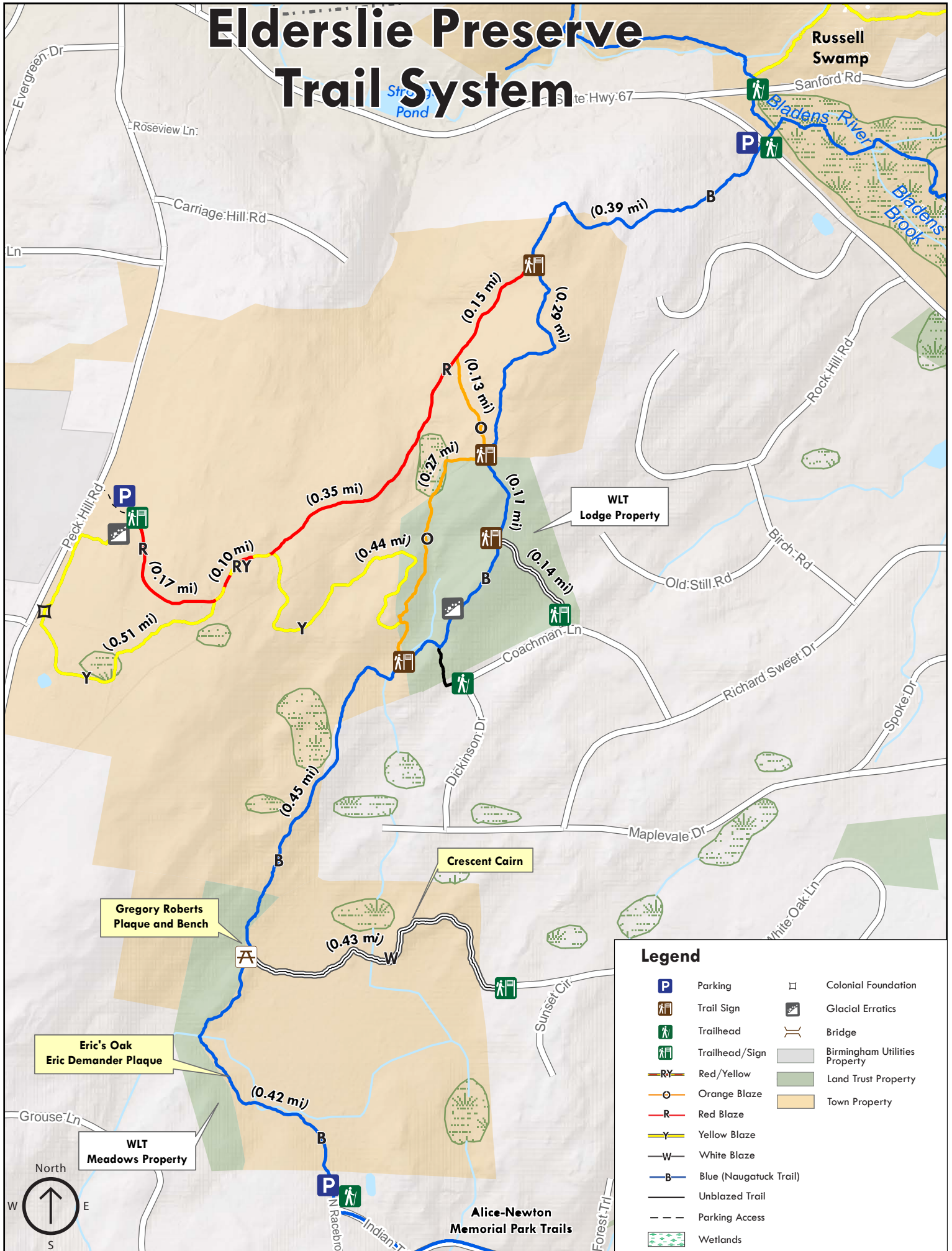
For more information about this location, contact:

Woodbridge Land Trust, Inc. or
Town of Woodbridge
(203) 389-3400

www.woodbridgect.org



Elderslie Preserve Trail System



Legend

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| | Parking | | Colonial Foundation |
| | Trail Sign | | Glacial Erratics |
| | Trailhead | | Bridge |
| | Trailhead/Sign | | Birmingham Utilities Property |
| | Red/Yellow | | Land Trust Property |
| | Orange Blaze | | Town Property |
| | Red Blaze | | |
| | Yellow Blaze | | |
| | White Blaze | | |
| | Blue (Naugatuck Trail) | | |
| | Unblazed Trail | | |
| | Parking Access | | |
| | Wetlands | | |

