

About .5 mile from Pyramid Rock, in a sight saddle along the ridge, an orange-blazed trail leads to the east (left) and down to Whitney Pond. A few yards south of a cairn, the trail descends sharply and crosses a small, beautiful stream, then ascends steeply once more to bare rock and dry oak forest. Eventually, the trail dips and then rises very steeply through another ravine. Note how much larger and better formed the trees are in such places. Once again, the trail breaks out on west facing ledges and continues south (eventually it crosses over to Bluff Head – the southern end of the trap rock ridge to the west).

Turn east (left) onto a Land Trust trail, marked with orange blazes. This orange-marked trail is the west end of the Maria Schmidt Memorial Trail. Follow it east a few hundred feet to where a loop of the trail branches right and eventually rejoins the main trail just a short distance ahead. Continue back into Mica Ledges Preserve to where the loop rejoins the main trail and proceed north (right) and northeast through a forest with chestnut and red oaks now taller and of finer quality than on the ridge just traversed. The Maria Schmidt Memorial Trail ascends once more through laurel thickets on the ridge before ending at the east-west crossover trail that connects with the Mattabasset trail to the west (left), Whitney Pond to the east. A few yards to the east is the south end of the north-south running orange trail that leads back to Pyramid Rock (that portion of the trail is described below). To the west, 425 feet toward the Mattabasset, the crossover trail passes directly through the remains of an old charcoal mound revealed by a nearly circular area with darkened soil. Just beyond, the trail crosses the bed of another intermittent stream and then gradually rises to join the Mattabasset trail near the western ledges. From the juncture of the Maria Schmidt trail and the crossover trail, hikers can return to the trailhead via the Mattabasset trail, by the north-south orange trail, or by continuing east to Whitney Pond and following the road system back north.

From Pyramid Rock go south, first along and through a great jumble of large rocks fallen from the ridge above, then, where the trail meets a logging road, turn sharply upslope to where a beautiful vernal pool with its backdrop of rocky outcrop and pitch pine presents and oriental and mystical appearance.

The blazed trail travels up and to the south and passes, near the eastern drop-off, a series of caves formed by the fractured rock talus. The trail continues upward, passes by another vernal pool and then, turning east (left), eventually emerges into an opening where great views can be had to the east of the ancient central Connecticut Highlands Geologic Province. Mount Pisgah can be seen to the northeast. Pitch pines, scrub oaks and dry understory of blueberry, huckleberry, etc. are characteristic of these open, storm-swept sites. Follow the trail southward and then down to the east. Through the trees, especially in the dormant season, good views can be had of Whitney Pond. Follow the trail down by Whitney Rocks to mid-slope and then south the where it joins the east-west trail crossing from Whitney Pond to the Mattabasset Trail to the west.

Directions and Parking:

Mica Ledges is located off of Cream Pot Road in Durham, CT. Cream Pot Road is accessed from Guilford Road (Route 77). Parking is in the cul-de-sac at the end of Cream Pot.

Permitted Activities:

The trail areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste.



Hiking



Pets on
Leash



For more information about this trail contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
State Forest: Eastern District HQ

www.madisonlandtrust.org
(860) 295-9523

Questions regarding this brochure can be addressed to
South Central Regional Council of Governments
Phone: (203) 234-7555/Fax: (203) 234-9850
E-mail: trails@scrcog.org

Scan QR Code to access the South Central Regional Council of
Governments Recreational Trails Webpage



Recreational Trails South Central Connecticut

Mica Ledges



Mica Ledges



Photo from Panoramio

Trail Description:

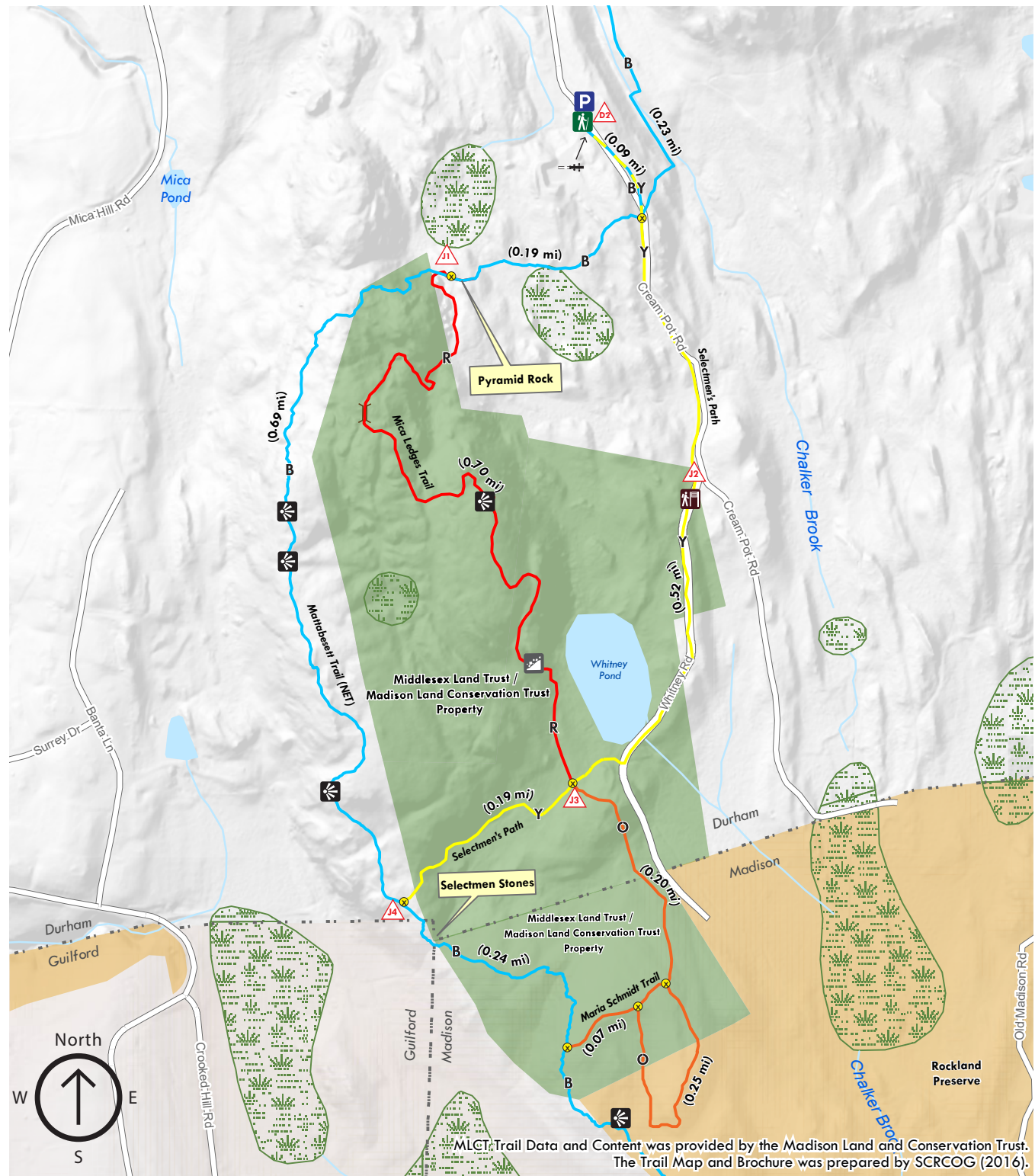
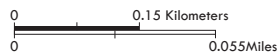
Difficult Hike

The Mica Ledges trail complex is one of our most challenging and rewarding. Special features include marvelous views from high granite ledges to the east and especially to the west along the Mattabasset Blue Trail, great rock jumbles, several streams, vernal pools and a beautiful pond. Most of the trails are in Durham as only 17 acres of the 100-acre preserve are in Madison.

Total trails distance is approx. 3.1 miles

Legend

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|--|--|--|---------------------|
| | Parking | | Trail Junction |
| | Trailhead | | Bridge |
| | Trail Sign | | Wetlands |
| | Scenic Viewpoint | | Town Property |
| | Rock Ledge | | Land Trust Property |
| | Kiosk Station | | Gate |
| | Orange (Maria Schmidt Trail) | | |
| | Red (Mica Ledges Trail) | | |
| | Yellow (Selectmen's Path) | | |
| | Blue/Yellow (Selectmen's Path) | | |
| | Blue (Mattabasset Trail [New England Trail]) | | |



MLCT Trail Data and Content was provided by the Madison Land and Conservation Trust. The Trail Map and Brochure was prepared by SCRCOG (2016).