The Preserve
December 2018 interim trails
ESSEX, OLD SAYBROOK, & WESTBROOK, CONNECTICUT

PLEASE:
• Pack out all trash
• Stay on marked trails
• No unauthorized motor vehicles
• Dogs on leash
• No camping or fires
• Cyclists: Use marked trails only; pedestrians have right of way

ESSEX PARKING:
Two locations, both accessible by turning off Rt. 153 in Essex onto Ingham Hill Road. No drive-thru to Old Saybrook.

WESTBROOK PARKING:
1278 Essex Road, Rt. 153 (30 spaces)

OLD SAYBROOK PARKING:
From Ingham Hill Road. No drive-thru to Essex. (5 spaces)
Map produced by the Town of Old Saybrook, Parks and Recreation Department, Conservation Commission and Old Saybrook Land Trust.

Technical assistance provided by Harrall-Michalowski Associates, Inc, Hamden, Connecticut

Driving Directions
Clark Community Park parking area:
From Route 1 / Post Road - North on School House Road for 1.1 miles, turn right into Clark Community Park.
Points of Interest:

A  Beach on the Connecticut River
B  Deitsch's Pond Dam
WAIVER OF RESPONSIBILITY AND DISCLAIMER

Letterboxing, like any outdoor activity carries the risk of unforeseen hazards. The Old Saybrook Land Trust has not knowingly placed letterboxes in areas that will create undue risk and will assume no liability for events which may occur related directly or indirectly to one's searching for a letterbox. By accepting and utilizing the letterbox clues, you acknowledge responsibility for your own actions, and agree to hold non-liable the Old Saybrook Land Trust.

Do not let children hunt for letterboxes unsupervised.
ENJOY THE CONTENTS OF OUR LETTERBOXES - REMEMBER TO RESEAL Tightly AND REPLACE WHERE FOUND, HIDDEN FROM VIEW!

FROM THE PARKING LOT OF GREAT CEDARS CONSERVATION AREA WEST ON INGHAM HILL ROAD FOLLOW THE GRAVEL ROAD (YELLOW TRAIL) KEEPING THE BOG TO YOUR RIGHT. AFTER PASSING AN OUTHOUSE, LEAVE THE ROAD GOING STRAIGHT TO ENTER A FOOTPATH.

COUNTING THE 1ST YELLOW BLAZE AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE PATH, CONTINUE TO 2ND YELLOW BLAZE FROM WHICH YOU TAKE 5 PACES, TURN RIGHT AND LOOK BEHIND A 1 FT DECAYING STUMP AND UNDER A ROCK FOR LETTERBOX #1.

KEEP GOING ON THE YELLOW BLAZED PATH UNTIL IT INTERSECTS THE BLUE TRAIL WHERE YOU TAKE A RIGHT TURN TO CONTINUE.

AFTER REACHING A LARGE FERN PATCH (SEASONAL – APPEARS AS A CLEARING IN WINTER) ON YOUR LEFT, SEARCH CAREFULLY ON THE RIGHT FOR A 8 FT LONG DEAD TREE STUMP LYING ON THE GROUND. WHAT A GREAT PLACE FOR SMALL CRITTERS TO HIDE AND LETTERBOX #2, TOO!

CONTINUE ON THE BLUE TRAIL PASSING THROUGH THE FIRST MOUNTAIN LAUREL GROVE (STATE FLOWER OF CONNECTICUT) TO REACH A SMALL CLEARING ON THE LEFT WHERE YOU WILL FIND LETTERBOX #3 BEHIND THE LONE BEECH TREE (SMOOTH SILVER-GRAY BARK).

BACK ON THE TRAIL STOP AT THE 2ND BLUE BLAZE ON ANOTHER BEECH, FACE THE TREE AND LOOK FOR TWIN TREES IMMEDIATELY TO THE LEFT WHERE LETTERBOX #4 IS HIDDEN.

Walking along the trail, look ahead for a dead tree whose 3 trunks reach out, pointing across the path - look on the right side of the path under the largest log to find Letterbox #5.

After walking up a gentle grade (hill) you will reach a red blaze and sign which marks a trail to Town Park - turn left to continue on the blue blazed trail where you will find Letterbox #6 hidden behind two large boulders immediately on your right.

The trail will meander down 2 hills where you will be looking for a Y-like sapling - from here count 15 paces, stop at the rock in the middle of the path and turn left - count 20 paces into the woods to a rock beneath a tall, twisted mountain laurel behind a small boulder to find Letterbox #7.

Further along the trail you will see a cluster of large boulders upland to your left – proceed on the trail through a patch of raspberry and barberry briars. (Note: Barberry is an invasive plant which is alien to the ecosystem and can out-compete and displace native species.) When the trail opens up you will sight a large rock in the distance, sit awhile and take a break after you find letter Letterbox #8 behind the rock.

After the next blue trail blaze, you will see a little clearing. Turn to your left and walk 25 paces. Look in between 2 rocks where you will find Letterbox #9.

Where the blue trail meets the yellow trail, turn left on to the yellow trail. On your left you will see a cluster of rocks. Turn right and walk to the dead tree on the ground. Inside the log you will find Letterbox #10.

Enjoy your walk back continuing on the blue trail, which meets once again the yellow trail, to gravel road and parking lot.

HAPPY TRAILS!