Lucius Pond Ordway - Devil's Den Preserve
In Connecticut, The Nature Conservancy has protected more than 50,000 acres across the state, maintains more than 60 local preserves and has more than 1 million members worldwide.

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The Nature Conservancy's Devil's Den Preserve
P.O. Box 1162, Weston, CT 06883

Facebook.com/CT.NatureConservancy

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The Nature Conservancy is dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends.

Take exit 42 for CT-57. Go north on CT-57 for 3.8 miles, then bear right at intersection to numbers on the map (see reverse). These posts also support yellow directional signs, which point toward the shortest route to Devil's Den. Properties are open sunrise to sunset. Trails with red blazes are for walking only; and those with white blazes are part of the Saugatuck Wildlife Refuge, an extensive shrubby marsh along the West Branch of the Saugatuck River. Great Ledge, a high rock formation with a spectacular view; and Ambler Gorge, a picturesque ravine and stream with a rocky cascade. These are rocky. We suggest these round-trip walks for your enjoyment:

• P.O. Box 1162, Weston, CT 06883

Visitors may not hunt; trap; rock climb; fish; swim; ice skate; boat; collect plants, fungi, animals, minerals, or artifacts; release animal; smoke; build fires; camp; or drink alcoholic beverages on premises.

Planning Your Trip

Table regulations are marked with numbered posts that correspond to numbers on the map (see reverse). These posts also support yellow directional signs, which point toward the shortest route back to the parking lot at Pent Road. Trails with red blazes are suitable for cross-country skiing, those with yellow blazes are for walking only; and those with white blazes are part of the Saugatuck Valley Trail system. 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:


At Devil's Den, visitors are welcome to hike, bird watch and take photos, but please refrain from any activities that disturb the natural environment or other visitors. Restroom facilities are not available.

A Patchwork of Habitats

Lucius Pond Ordway - Devil's Den Preserve in the largest contiguous nature preserve in southeastern Connecticut, with 1,776 acres of woodlands, wetlands, streams, scenic rock ledges and rugged north-south ridges.

Some 20 miles of trails offer opportunities to visit diverse features including: 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; Great Ledge, a high rock formation with a spectacular view; and Ambler Gorge, a picturesque ravine and stream with a rocky cascade.

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

An Oasis for Species

Biologically, Devil's Den is valuable because it is part of a much larger, species-rich landscape that encompasses nearly 15,000 acres of continuous forest. The preserve is home to 346 species of birds, 23 species of mammals and 475 varieties of trees, plants and wildflowers.

Little Pond Ordway - Devil's Den Preserve

A History of Devil's Den

The presence of stone walls and foundations suggests that some of the land in Devil's Den was also used for agriculture. But forestry was its primary industry from the early 1700s until about 1930.

In the 1800s and up until about 1920, charcoal was produced at an area of 20 miles throughout the preserve. The charcoal was used for many purposes, including fueling iron forges. When technology advanced, charcoal was no longer in such high demand, and this type of production ceased.

In 1966, Katherine Ordway, a local philanthropist, began donating the lands that enabled The Nature Conservancy to purchase the original 1,410 acres of Devil's Den. Today, the preserve is 1,776 acres and hosts more than 40,000 visitors each year.

Connect Godfrey Pond - Wikipedia; Top Left: Garter Snake ©David Ambler; Top Right: Students at Devil's Den Preserve (TNC)

Conservation efforts at Devil's Den were occupied by semi-nomadic Native Americans as early as 3000 B.C. Its back to the parking lot at Pent Road. Trails with red blazes are for walking only; and those with white blazes are part of the Saugatuck Valley Trail system. 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:


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