

### DIRECTIONS

From the intersection of Route 275 and Route 195, head south on Route 195 for 1.25 miles. Turn left at Mansfield Historical Society; parking is behind building.

### Suggested Park Activities

-  Hiking
-  Picnicking

### Prohibited Park Activities

- Unleashed Dogs
- Mountain / Motor Biking
- Camping / Camp Fires
- Horseback Riding



**Mansfield  
Parks &  
Recreation**

10 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield CT 06268  
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Made possible through a grant from the National Recreational Trails Program, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection



For up-to-date trail information or to download maps click on [www.mansfieldct.org/trailguides/](http://www.mansfieldct.org/trailguides/)

# Fifty-Foot Cliff Preserve

Mansfield, CT

Fifty-Foot Cliff Preserve is a 102-acre tract of land that is mostly forested. The name Fifty Foot was chosen more for poetic alliteration than for topographic accuracy, as the cliff is actually at least 100 feet high today. Enjoy the cliff-top view of the Fenton River Valley, Lake Naubesatuck and the distant ridges of Scotland.



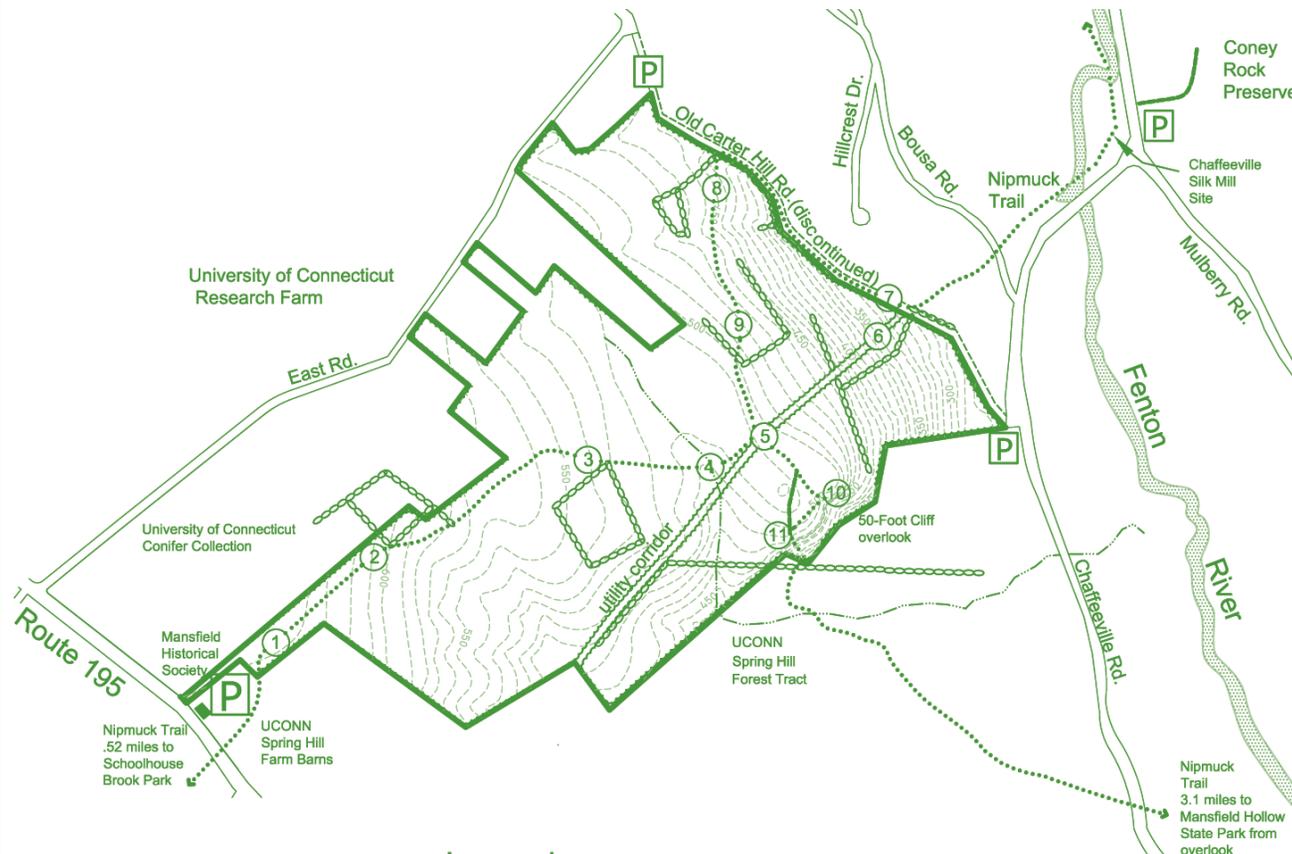


# Fifty-Foot Cliff Preserve



SOURCE INFO: Topography taken from USGS maps. Treelines, waterbodies and other physical features from aerial photographs. Stone wall survey by UCONN Department of Natural Resource Management and Engineering. This map and GPS Trail date by UCONN Program of Landscape Architecture. All measurements are approximate.

Revised: March 2006



## Legend

- Nipmuck Trail (blue)
- Connecting Trails (white)
- Parking Area
- Topographic Line
- Brook / Intermittent Watercourse
- Trail Guide Points of Interest
- Stone Walls

## trail guide

There are 1.41 miles of blazed hiking trails within the preserve boundaries. The trails are blazed in blue (Nipmuck) or white (Town) and wind through the following points of interest:

- 1. Upland Forest** - Upland forests are dominated by hardwoods such as maples and oaks, and the occasional beech tree. Shrubs such as maple leaf viburnum can also be found here. While moving along the trail, the change in soil type and moisture content will become evident with the change in vegetation.
- 2. Stone Walls** - The closed rectangle outlined by these stonewalls indicates they were probably once the boundaries of an open field. The young age of the majority of trees found nearby indicate that this land was either a crop field or pasture in the recent past.
- 3. Wetland Forest** - A change in soil moisture content is evident by the number of birch trees and an understory of ferns, which prefer wetter soils with flatter topography.
- 4. Wetland Boardwalk** - This boardwalk allows easy passage over an intermittent waterway. The vegetation here is typical of a wetland area. Notice the skunk cabbage, jack-in-the-pulpit, violets, and other water-tolerant vegetation.
- 5. Utility Corridors** - This corridor acts as a passage for a gas line and also provides a dramatic, uninterrupted view of the Fenton River Valley and Coney Rock across the valley.
- 6. Ant Hill** - The mound in the middle of the corridor is not a weed-covered boulder; it is a giant anthill. Use caution walking down the corridor's steep slope.
- 7. Native Forest** - As Old Carter Hill Road leads uphill from the corridor, it passes through a mature forest with diverse species ranging from small saplings to century-old trees.
- 8. Old Field Succession** - This small clearing is the remnant of an old logging staging area. Here successional vegetation that follows abandonment can be seen. Plants such as barberry and multiflora rose have taken hold in the disturbed soil.
- 9. Wolf Tree** - The giant oak near the stonewall is referred to as a Wolf Tree because of its size compared to neighboring vegetation. It is probable that this tree provided shade for grazing animals in pastures contained within these old stonewalls.
- 10. Fifty-Foot Cliff Overlook** - This spot provides for fantastic views of Naubesatuck Lake and the Fenton River Valley. When this area was pastureland in the early 1900's, it was possible to see Coney Rock across the Fenton River Valley, and a loud Hello would echo back from Coney Rock's pastures.
- 11. Rock Cliff** - As the trail winds downhill, observe the edge of the cliff and the many species of Cliffside vegetation. The cliff is composed of the Eastford Phase of Canterbury Gneiss.