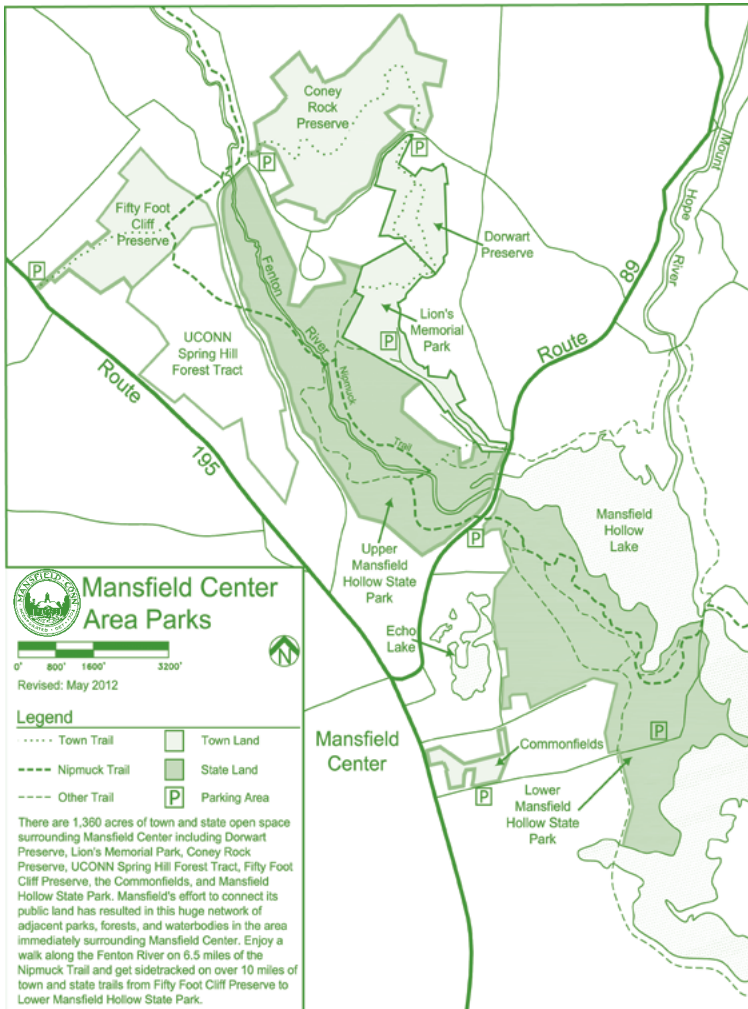


Lion's Memorial Park and Dorwart Preserve are adjacent Town properties totaling 125 acres. These link Mansfield Hollow State Park on the south and west to Coney Rock Preserve and Fifty-Foot Cliff Preserve on the north. Together these properties protect a large forested area that shelters diverse wildlife and woodland plants. There are trails for walking each of these properties, and it is possible to hike a nine-mile loop through all of them by using connecting trails. Lion's Memorial Park was purchased by the Town in 2009. The Dorwart Preserve was purchased by the Town in 2010 with the assistance of a CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection grant.



DIRECTIONS

To Lion's Memorial Park: from Route 195 turn onto Route 89/Warrenville Road in Mansfield Center. Travel one mile, turn left, and follow the signs to the park. Park along the road at the edge of the soccer field.

To the Dorwart Preserve entrance: continue past the entrance of Lions Memorial Park on Rt. 89 and take the next left onto Wormwood Hill Road. Travel one mile and take a left onto Mulberry Road. Travel 0.4 miles and park on the left before the bridge.

Made possible through a grant from the National Recreational Trails Program, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection



US Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Lion's Memorial Park/ Dorwart Preserve

Mansfield, CT

For more up-to-date trail information or to download maps click on www.Mansfieldct.org/trailguides/



Mansfield
Parks & Recreation
Family, Fitness & Fun!

10 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield CT 06268
860 429-3015 • fax 860 429-9773
www.mansfieldcc.com
email: preserves@mansfieldct.org

Lion's Memorial Park

There is a 0.5-mile loop trail around the perimeter of the Park. A 1.25-mile trail connects from the soccer fields through the Dorwart Preserve to Mulberry Road.

- 1. Mansfield Soccer Complex** – Built by the Town, this recreational area currently contains 4 full-sized soccer fields, a pavilion, a concession stand with restrooms, and parking areas.
- 2. Loop Trail** – Where the entrance road meets the soccer field area, it turns left and goes along the south side of the fields, then downhill to a turn-around area. Park by the soccer field and walk along this road to the turn-around. From here you can either continue downhill into Mansfield Hollow State Park to explore its trails or follow the white-blazed loop trail as it heads north and curves to the right to start uphill.
- 3. Ravine** – The loop trail follows a small brook then travels uphill to follow a ravine. You will cross a seasonal brook. If you go left you will come to a bridge that will take you into Dorwart Preserve. If you go right you will complete the loop back to the soccer fields.

Dorwart Preserve

There is a one-mile loop trail.

- A. Stream Valley** – The Preserve entrance on Mulberry Road is by a scenic brook that drops over many cascades. The brook follows the path of the significant regional Eastford Fault, which extends from Mansfield northeast to Woodstock. This fault was active hundreds of million years ago and was associated with the formation of the super continent, Pangaea. The year-round stream flows from the large marsh across Mulberry Road and through the Preserve on its way to the Fenton River. The white-blazed trail begins on an old road bed leading to a former bridge crossing. Follow the trail uphill and along the stream valley past large oaks, evergreen hemlocks and mossy boulders of all shapes and sizes. These rocks were carried here by the last glacier and left in place as it melted away.

- B. River of Rocks** – The trail skirts around the upper edge of a small valley choked with rounded boulders (glacial till) that were deposited by glaciers as the ice melted hundreds of millions of years ago. Till is a mix of sand, mud, and boulders and covers many of the hills in eastern Connecticut, including most of Dorwart Preserve. The trail then passes a junction with the upper part of the loop trail on the left. Continue straight on the lower trail through rocky terrain with views of Coney Rock ridge in fall and winter.
- C. Old Road** – The trail turns left onto an old road by a cellar hole and an abandoned car from over 70 years ago. The road was probably a local shortcut and also provided access to adjacent pastures and wood lots. Follow the road east as it climbs along the side of a steep hill. (A trail leading downhill to the right takes you to a footbridge and trails in Lion's Memorial Park. After you cross the bridge, note the change from glacial till and rounded boulders to stratified drift, which is composed of layers of finer sediments deposited by water flowing from the melting glacier.)

Beyond this connecting trail, continue on the old road downhill, then uphill again. Watch for a stone wall on the left and make a sharp left turn to follow the loop trail up an old wagon track next to the wall.

- D. Glacial Terrace** – Beyond the top of the ramp, note an L-shaped stone wall on the right that may have been part of a livestock pen. Few stone walls were built in the Preserve (other than animal pens and boundary walls) because most of the land was too stony to be worth clearing for crops.

Watch for a vernal pool on the right that is noisy with breeding frogs in the spring. The trail continues on the wagon track along a level terrace that drops off steeply on the west side. The terrace features a mature forest of red and white oak with hemlocks and pines scattered throughout. This diverse woods offers fine opportunities for observing wildlife and their signs, such as the many woodpecker holes in the trees.
- E. Scenic Lookout** – The trail leads uphill to a lookout with views in fall and winter across the Fenton River valley to Spring Hill and a view of Coney Rock to the right. A vernal pool is visible in the woods far below the lookout. The trail continues back to the wagon track and soon turns left to go downhill past a hemlock grove. Where it joins the lower part of the loop trail, turn right to return to Mulberry Road.

