



### DIRECTIONS

Take Rt. 195 South from the UConn Campus or North from Willimantic until you reach Mansfield Center. The intersection with Bassetts Bridge Road is next to T & B Motors and across from Center Marine. Turn eastward onto Bassetts Bridge Road and travel 500 feet. Parking is on your left.

### Suggested Park Activities

-  Hiking
-  Picnicking

### Prohibited Park Activities

- Unleashed Dogs
- Biking
- Camping
- Horseback Riding
- Alcoholic Beverages



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

# Commonfields

Mansfield, CT

The Commonfields in Mansfield Center includes several Town-owned parcels totaling over eighteen acres. The Town lands preserve part of the Commonfields used by Mansfield's early settlers 300 years ago and also part of Col. Experience Storrs' 18th-century farm. The trail passes sites associated with Mansfield's early history, as well as a pond and shrub swamp with a blind for watching wildlife.



Art Kostapapas



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# The Commonfields



## Legend

- Town Trail
- Parking Area
- Topographic Line
- Trail Guide Points of Interest
- Working Agricultural Field

SOURCE INFO: Topography taken from USGS maps. Treelines, waterbodies and other physical features from aerial photographs. This map and GPS Trail data by UCONN Program of Landscape Architecture. All measurements are approximate.

Revised: May 2011

## trail guide

There is a 0.25 mile walking trail accessible on the Commonfields site that winds through the following points of interest:

- 1 History** - In 1703, early settlers of Mansfield agreed to reserve a portion of the land east of Town Street (now Rt. 195) as a commons to be shared for farming purposes. Later in the 1700's, Mansfield's Revolutionary war hero, Colonel Experience Storrs had a home along Rt. 195. The Town purchased portions of these areas in the 1990's for historical and agricultural preservation.
- 2 Agriculture Fields** - These fields are a part of the Commonfields, used for farming for over 300 years. Currently, these lands are leased to a local farmer, The fields are not open to the public. Please stay on the trail and keep your dogs out of these fields.
- 3 Wetland** - This five-acre wetland has been called a bog, but it is actually a shallow pond with a shrub swamp, which provides habitats for varied wildlife. The shrubs offer nesting places for wetland birds and cover for turtles, geese, and other animals.
- 4 Private Property** - Please be courteous because the Town-owned land is surrounded by privately owned property. A 50-foot right of way has been generously allowed as a Town trail along the edge of the wetland. Please stay on the trail.
- 5 Historic Barn** - The late 19th century barn is located on the same site as the original barn owned by Mansfield's Revolutionary war hero, Colonel Experience Storrs. His former home is next to Rt. 195.
- 6 Bird Blind** - In 2009 an Eagle Scout built this blind so visitors could observe the many species of birds and other wildlife that visit or live in this wetland habitat. Species include redwing black birds, common grackles, yellow warblers, muskrats, fox, and painted turtles.
- 7 Mustering Ground** - Col. Experience Storrs trained local Revolutionary war "trainbands", on his property, perhaps on the field located just south of the cemetery. A Revolutionary War Reenactment-Encampment was held here during Mansfield's tercentennial celebration in 2002.
- 8 Cemetery** - The Old Mansfield Center Cemetery, which is the oldest cemetery in Tolland County, abuts the Commonfields and dates back to 1693. This landmark, where Col. Experience Storrs is buried, is on the National Register of Historic Places and serves to remind us of Mansfield's 300 years of existence.
- 9 Connections** - A short walk down Cemetery Road will bring you to the entrance for the Joshua's Trust Pond Lot trail, which connects to trails in Echo Woods. Also within walking distance of the site are historic Mansfield Center and Mansfield Hollow State Park.
- 10 Mansfield Center** - Recent sidewalk improvements along RT 195 provide a walkable and connected streetscape. Enjoy exploring Mansfield Center and its open spaces along its sidewalks and trails.