

Trail Map



Welcome to Florence Bidwell Sanctuary



The Sanctuary encompasses 12.5-acres of upland woods including the top of Rattling Valley Hill. The land was donated to the Deep River Land Trust in 1978, 1984, and 1993, by John Blair and was named in honor of his mother Florence Bidwell, whose home was on the property. An old dug well and crumbling stonewalls are all that remain of her homestead. Long-range views of Pratt and Post Coves and the Connecticut River are available from the ridge top in the winter and early Spring. In the northern half of the Sanctuary, ledges of Avalonian bedrock form NW-SE trending rock ridges. If you look closely at the rock outcroppings, you can see foliation (fine layering) within the rock, which trends in a similar direction.

The blue-blazed trail and the gravel parking area were developed as an Eagle Scout project by Josef Lenz, who lives nearby and walked here with his parents as a young boy. An additional trail is planned that will connect with a future trail system in the adjacent Rattling Valley Ridge Preserve. The small parking area will accommodate 2-3 cars.

Please Note the Following Restrictions:

1. No motorized vehicles are allowed
2. Pets must be leashed or under owner's control
3. No fires
4. No cutting of trees or other vegetation
5. No harvesting of downed trees
6. No parking after dusk

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