



Welcome to Evelyn & Hawthorne Smyth Sanctuary



Smyth Sanctuary is 1.9 acres of wooded land bordering the freshwater tidal marsh, Pratt Cove. Pratt and Post Coves, along with other such marshes along the Connecticut River have been designated by The Nature Conservancy as one of the Last Great Places in the Western Hemisphere. Smyth Sanctuary was the first piece of land acquired by the Deep River Land Trust, a generous donation in 1977 from John Blair. In 2019, DRLT purchased an adjacent parcel of more open land (west of the stone wall) with the help of the Connecticut River Gateway Commission, the State of Connecticut, and several private donors. This addition increased the size of the Sanctuary to about 2.3 acres. Although the trail is short, the observation deck is a pleasant place to sit and watch all sorts of wildlife in the Cove--- including turtles, otters, egrets, herons, swans, and red-winged blackbirds. Information about the biology, botany, and geology of the Cove is illustrated by signage at the observation deck. Parking is available at the adjacent Town parking area on the south side of Essex Street.

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