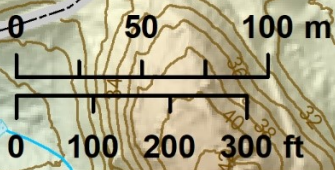


**Map Legend**

- Sanctuary Boundary
- Rattling Ridge Trail-- yellow blaze
- Ridge Bypass Trail-- yellow/white blaze
- Susanne Haig Trail
- Stone Wall
- Old Quarry
- Stone Cairn
- Observation Deck
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- P Parking



**Lidar-derived Digital Elevation Model**  
 Elevation in meters  
 High : 60  
 Low : 0  
 Contour Interval 2 meters







**Rattling Valley Ridge Preserve** encompasses about 8 acres of wooded upland that can be accessed from the Town parking area on Essex Street. The Preserve connects the Florence Bidwell Sanctuary with The Nature Conservancy's 6-acre Preserve bordering Pratt Cove. The land was purchased by the Deep River Land Trust in 2019, funded by a Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Open-Space Grant, a grant from the Connecticut River Gateway Commission, and several private donations.

Excellent views of the Cove may be seen while walking through the relatively open forest canopy. Along the way, one will encounter large glacial boulders and outcroppings of Avalonian bedrock and an old quarry where bedrock was extracted for building stone. Many species of trees including maple, hickory, beech, oak, and cedar can be seen, and perhaps wildlife such as wild turkey, coyote, and hawk.

The yellow-blazed Rattling Ridge Trail (0.9 miles) begins on Essex Street and passes through the Rattling Valley Ridge Preserve and the Florence Bidwell Sanctuary to end on Rattling Valley Road. The 0.1-mi yellow/white blazed Ridge Bypass Trail follows an easier path between the ridges and slightly shortens the hike. Efforts are on-going to connect this trail to the Canfield Woods Trail System.



**Smyth Sanctuary** is 2 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 decks are pleasant places to sit and watch all sorts of wildlife in the Cove--- including turtles, otters, egrets, herons, swans, and red-winged blackbirds. Parking is available at the adjacent Town parking area on the south side of Essex Street.



**Florence Bidwell 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 gravel parking area was developed as an Eagle Scout project by Josef Lenz, who lives nearby and walked here with his parents as a young boy. He also developed a blue-blazed trail which has been superseded by the Rattling Ridge Trail (yellow-blaze) and the Ridge Bypass Trail (yellow/white blaze) The 0.9-mi yellow-blazed Rattling Ridge Trail passes through the adjoining Rattling Valley Ridge Preserve to Essex Street and the Smyth Preserve on Pratt Cove. The Ridge Bypass Trail follows an easier path between the ridges and slightly shortens the hike. Efforts are on-going to connect this trail to the Canfield Woods Trail System south of Rattling Valley Road.

**Please Note the Following Restrictions:**

- No wheels, motors, or hooves are allowed
- No hunting or trapping
- Pets must be leashed and under owner's control
- No fires
- No cutting or harvesting of trees or other vegetation
- Carry out what you carry in
- Properties are open from dawn to dusk only

Deep River Land Trust



Visit our website:  
[deeperiverlandtrust.org](http://deeperiverlandtrust.org)  
 Find us on Facebook:  
 Deep River Land Trust, Inc.