



## Welcome to Rattling Valley Ridge Preserve



**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 tree species including maple, hickory, beech, oak, and cedar can be seen, and perhaps some wildlife such as wild turkey, coyote, and hawk.

A trail system that will connect the Bidwell Sanctuary trail with the Nature Conservancy trails and with Smyth Sanctuary is planned for this property. When completed, it will be possible to hike from Pratt Cove across the top of Rattling Valley Hill to the parking spot at Bidwell Sanctuary on Rattling Valley Road.

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