

The Old Lyme Land Trust & the Old Lyme Open Space Commission: Who's Who?



Photo credit: Jeff Vlaun

The **Old Lyme Land Trust** (OLLT) is a 501(c) 3 (non-profit) private corporation established by a group of conservation-minded Old Lyme residents in 1966. The OLLT is an all volunteer organization governed by a board of trustees approved by the membership. It receives no taxpayer funding and relies on donations and membership contributions to fund its land acquisitions and operating expenses.

The Old Lyme Land Trust owns and maintains 14 preserves, totaling 802 acres, plus numerous smaller properties (largely marshes) throughout the town. It also holds a small number of conservation easements.

All the land owned by the OLLT is legally private, held for the public benefit. OLLT properties can either be opened for public use or closed by the board in order to protect valuable and/or vulnerable wildlife habitat as well as scenic values.

The **Open Space Commission** (OLOSC) is a Town of Old Lyme government agency, established by local ordinance. Members of the Commission are volunteers appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The town in 1972 first considered acquiring land for open space. This goal was pursued via sub-committees of various town commissions, until the OLOSC was formally created in 2010 by a vote of residents during a town meeting.

Since 1988, the Town of Old Lyme has allocated \$75,000 annually into an open space acquisition fund which was recently used to purchase the McCulloch Family Open Space. In addition, the town budgets the commission's limited operating expenses.

The commission is charged by ordinance with managing town-owned open space for passive public recreational use and to protect and preserve its natural resources and wildlife. There are six sizable open space properties, totaling 936 acres. The OLOSC also owns smaller properties and holds a number of conservation easements

Help Wanted

Trail maintenance is a year-round activity. We welcome your help keeping our properties in good condition.

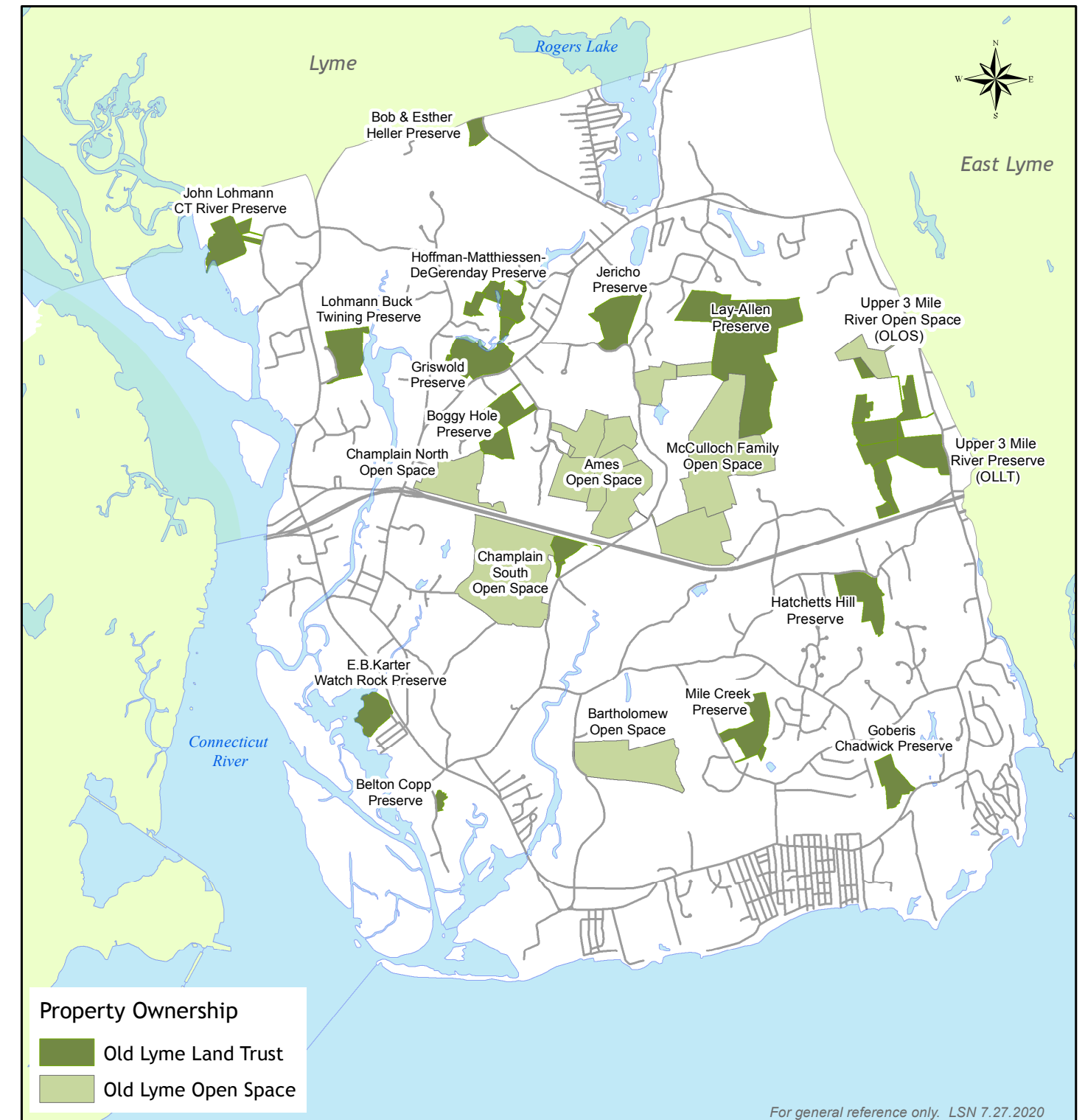
To volunteer, contact the Old Lyme Land Trust (OLLandTrust@gmail.com) or the Open Space Commission (olhikes@gmail.com).

It's a great way to give back to the community and meet other nature lovers!



Old Lyme Hiking Trails

Old Lyme Land Trust Preserves & Town of Old Lyme Open Space



For more information and maps of specific properties please visit:
www.oldlymelandtrust.org or
www.oldlyme-ct.gov/open-space-commission/pages/hiking

Old Lyme Land Trust Preserves

See www.OldLymeLandTrust.org to **download trail maps** and descriptions, for land history, etc. Enjoy!

Boggy Hole Preserve – 45 acres. Northern part has wetlands and abundant wildlife. Southern section has wonderful ledge outcrops and an old cart path through open woodland with large trees. Directions: Boston Post Rd to Boggy Hole Rd, trailhead about 600 feet from intersection on right, OR enter via the town-owned Champlain North Preserve: Boston Post Rd to Rose Ln, right at T onto Hillwood Rd, park in cul-de-sac at end.

Belton **Copp** Preserve – 4 acres. Borders a state-owned 32-acre tidal marsh, with views of sunrise and marsh wildlife. Wind chimes and a grove of fairy houses in a garden adorned with fanciful objects are along the “Whimsy Walk” created by local girl scouts. Directions: Rte 156 to 14 Smith Neck Rd, on left 0.25 mi. from turn. Walk through the grassy clearing with a granite bench under a lone cedar tree to the trail.

Goberis-Chadwick Preserve – 25 acres. Bordered by Armstrong Brook. Features rock ledges, huge boulders and stone walls. Alive with spring peepers in early spring and red-tailed hawks year round. Directions: Take the gravel drive at 372 Shore Rd (Rte 156), bear to the left to the parking area. There is a private home on the right; please do not park in the driveway.

George & Woodward H. **Griswold** Preserve – 51 acres. Contains forested uplands and ledges, vernal pools, and riparian lowland. Also the site of a CT DEEP fish ladder. There are beavers in the pond and several species of ducks. Many migratory birds visit. Directions: Parking area off Boston Post Rd directly opposite Stoneleigh Knoll, 2 mi. west of Rogers Lake.

Hatchetts Hill Preserve – 44 acres. Boardwalks cross Armstrong Brook, which originates here. Land is flat, easy walking through woods of large oak, beech, and maple. The blue trail crosses wetlands that are a haven for amphibians. Directions: Four Mile River Rd to Hatchetts Hill Rd just south of I-95. At Machnik Dr (0.65 mi. from turn) the road goes straight but becomes much narrower. Preserve is 0.15 mi. further on left.

Bob and Esther **Heller** Preserve – 16 acres. Flat ledges along the uphill trail are thought to have been used by Native Americans for ritual ceremonies. Directions: Boston Post Rd to 80 Town Woods Rd, on the left just before the big curve where the road enters Lyme.

Hoffman-Matthiessen-DeGerenday Preserve – 40 acres. Open woodlands with laurel stands and soft patches of ferns. There is a pond formed by an earthen dam, where you may see beavers. Many species of birds present. Directions: Boston Post Rd to 95 Sill Ln (0.3 mi. from turn if Sill Ln is taken from the east, or 1.5 mi. if taken from the west).

Jericho Preserve – 50 acres. Dramatic ledge outcrops and thick conifer stands, ladyslipper orchids in June. Wonderful views from the high points. The fieldstone-clad house is OLLT owned and rented; please respect the tenants’ privacy. Directions: Boston Post Rd to Whippoorwill Rd, 0.5 mi. on the left at 44 Whippoorwill.

Lay-Allen Preserve – 215 acres. OLLT’s largest preserve. High secluded woodland with considerable wetlands in the lower sectors. Blue heron rookery on site. Affords long hikes via connections with Town open space. Directions: Boston Post Rd to Lords Meadow Ln then straight into Lords Woods development. Trailhead at 3rd asphalt driveway apron on right.

John **Lohmann CT River** Preserve – 42 acres. Lovely terraced fields with a few huge trees, edged by stone walls, leading down to Whaleback Point and frontage on Lords Cove in the CT River. Directions: Trailhead at 33 Coult Ln, off Neck Rd (Rte 156). Park along Coult Ln, but please do not park in front of or directly across from driveways. Can also be accessed from the river by kayak or canoe.

Lohmann-Buck-Twining Preserve – 46 acres. Includes 2,000 feet of Lieutenant River frontage. Panoramic views of the CT River (west) and the Lieutenant River (east) from the top of the ridge. Bald eagles are often seen here. Directions: Rte 156 to Riverview Dr (right turn at mailbox that says #79). Park in the graveled area at the sharp bend of the road.

Mile Creek Preserve – 44 acres. Secluded woodland with wetlands created by Swan Brook. You might see turkey, deer, amphibians, and other wildlife here. See website to download a fun self-guided tour along the Mile Creek Educational Nature Trail. Directions: Trailhead parking near mailbox at 191 Mile Creek Rd, 0.2 miles west of Mile Creek School.

Upper Three Mile River Preserve – 160 acres. Part of the largest remaining undeveloped block of land in Old Lyme. Varied terrain includes cliffs, open ridges, a long piece of the Three Mile River, amazing stone walls, thick conifer groves, stands of laurel, wetlands, and woodlands. A very special place! Level: moderately difficult. Directions: Trailhead across from town transfer station on Four Mile River Rd. Park at the I-95 Exit 71 Commuter Parking Lot a few hundred yards south.

Elizabeth B. Karter **Watch Rock** Preserve – 25 acres. Bordered by the Duck River on two sides. Spectacular views from rocky shoreline across the water and tidal wetlands to the CT River and Long Island Sound. Varied habitats of woodlands, meadow, and spruce grove mean there is plentiful wildlife. Directions: McCurdy Rd from Old Lyme town center, cross Rte 156, right turn on Joel Dr, then a left and a quick right to the parking lot. Also accessible by water via kayak or canoe.

Old Lyme Open Space

Ames Family Open Space – 195 acres. A variety of trails criss-cross this open space, including the nearly 2-mile “blue” trail. As you hike a distance on this trail, enjoy a tranquil view of beaver ponds.

The Ames Family Open Space has an interesting history of early occupation. Per the Old Lyme Conservation Trust’s August 2010 *Tributaries*: [Sheep’s Ledge, accessible via the blue trail,] was used by Native American Indians for shelter and has been recognized as an important historic site for at least two hundred years. Directions: Boston Post Road to Boggy Hole Road to Evergreen Trail. Street parking on the cul-de-sac at end.

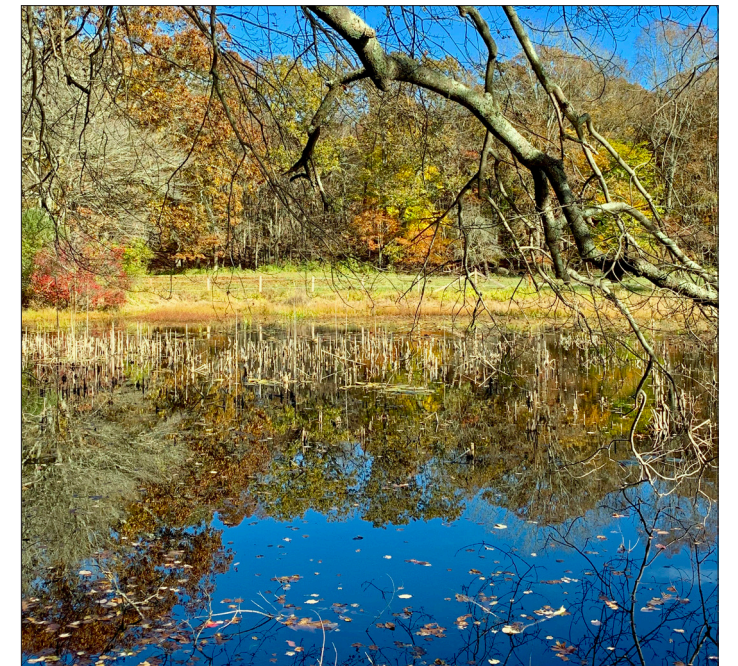
Bartholomew Open Space – 105 acres. A loop trail offers a pleasant, easy walk and takes about twenty minutes. Directions: Located just north of the railroad overpass on Buttonball Road. Limited off-street parking.

Champlain North Open Space – 65 acres. Starting on the red trail, you’ll notice Formica ant hills, built by mound ants. Their nests consist of a turret of soil. Continuing you’ll reach the Barbizon Oak. At over sixteen feet in circumference, the 300-year-old Barbizon is one of Connecticut’s largest white oaks, and was named in honor of the Old Lyme art colony. Directions: Boston Post Road to Wyckford Lane, just north of the I-95 interchange and the Old Lyme Inn. Off-street parking area. A second entrance is available from Hillside Road West, on-street parking.



Champlain South Open Space – 204 acres. Spectacular 100-foot granite cliffs can be seen along the “white trail” which starts at Library Lane. The “Old Boggy Hole Road” bisects the property and you may notice where 17th & 18th century iron wheeled carts

wore grooves into the bedrock. Directions: Two main entrances – at the cul-de-sac at the end of Meetinghouse Lane, off McCurdy Road and Johnny Cake Hill Road, and at the end of Library Lane, off Lyme Street. On-street parking. Accessible too via an Old Lyme Land Trust property at 223 Whippoorwill Road, near the intersection with Jadon Drive. No on-site parking at the latter location.



McCulloch Family Open Space – 312 acres. The McCulloch Farm, established in 1929, is considered one of Old Lyme’s signature properties and is ecologically important as part of the upper watershed of the Black Hall River. The “Tree in the Gap” trail reaches Rook’s Meadow and Jimmy’s Pond after a short walk. A hand-hewn bench is in the meadow for visitors. The trail connects to the OLLT’s Lay-Allen Preserve. Directions: A parking lot for the “Tree in the Gap” trail is located off Whippoorwill Road. A yellow trail parking area is located from another Whippoorwill Road entrance. Parking for a red trail begins from cul-de-sac parking on Flat Rock Hill Road.

Upper Three Mile River Open Space – 30 acres. No separate trails, but a trail from the OLLT Upper Three Mile River Preserve crosses the property. You may also hike under the powerlines to the top of the ridge for a challenging walk from Four Mile River Road.

SCAN ME



To download trail maps, see:
<https://www.oldlyme-ct.gov/open-space-commission>
You may also scan QR codes at open space kiosks to download maps.