

# 71

# ALICE NEWTON STREET MEMORIAL PARK TRAILS

Woodbridge, CT

Owned by the Woodbridge Park Association, one of the oldest land trusts in Connecticut, the **Alice Newton Street Memorial Park** is an outdoor enthusiast's dream located in the heart of Woodbridge.

The Park has approximately 100 acres of protected open space. It has four access points and consists of varied habitat classifications such as forests and woodlands, streams, wetlands, etc. Alice Newton Street Memorial Park provides walkers of all ages with easy access to the varied flora and fauna of Woodbridge.

Other major landmarks in the Park include "the meadow" and the nearby Wepawug Falls. The "Falls" are actually on Woodbridge Land Trust Property, but have become synonymous with this park. The Wepawug River's northern and eastern branches merge here before it empties into Long Island Sound. Many old stone walls



run through much of the Park, adding an element of this land's past agricultural history. The meadow must have been quite wet at one time as a proposal was made in 1948 to drain the meadow so that other parts of the Park could be accessed.

The main "blue" trail was originally part of the Naugatuck Trail, one of the oldest Indian trails in Connecticut. This trail is a key component to Woodbridge's State Designated Greenway System. Hikers can enjoy about 5 miles of trails consisting of 6 major trails and several additional minor trails. Many of the boardwalks, bridges and benches have been constructed by Boy Scouts, many of whom were earning their Eagle Scout rank.

In January 1929, Mr. Newton Street donated 82 acres of forest north of the Woodbridge Town Hall as a memorial to his mother, **Alice Newton Street** (1853-1928). The Park was created and named in her honor. Mr. Newton had drawn inspiration from the New Haven Green, Boston Common and Hyde Park in London and recognized the importance of open spaces. He wanted to preserve the rural character of the land as he had grown up to know it. Further, he wanted an association made up of people who cared enough about the Park to protect it, so that it would be there in perpetuity for all to use. The Woodbridge Park Association was incorporated, and over the years additional contiguous land donations have been made. Although maintaining the Park requires many man-hours of effort, the WPA is committed to preserve it as a very special haven for wildlife and hikers alike.

### Directions and Parking:

Take Rt 114 to the Woodbridge Town Center. Parking is available on Meetinghouse Lane or any other public parking areas. The main entrance for Alice Newton Street Memorial Park is located on Meetinghouse Lane just west of the rear driveway of the First Church of Christ. A large and prominent sign, detailing many of the Park's trails and landmarks is available to view.

### Permitted Activities:

This Park is for passive recreation only. Hiking and nature study, Pets are welcome but must be on a leash. Please pick up and bag all pet waste. ALL are welcome in the Park for passive recreation during daylight hours year-round.

### For more information about this location, contact:

The Woodbridge Park Association, Inc.  
www.woodbridgeparks.org or Email:  
president@woodbridgeparks.org

*This project made possible through a grant from the National Recreational Trails Program, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.*



*Mapping for this brochure has been produced by John Triana of the Regional Water Authority and Mike Walter, Woodbridge Trail Master.*

### South Central Regional Council of Governments

127 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor West  
North Haven, CT 06473

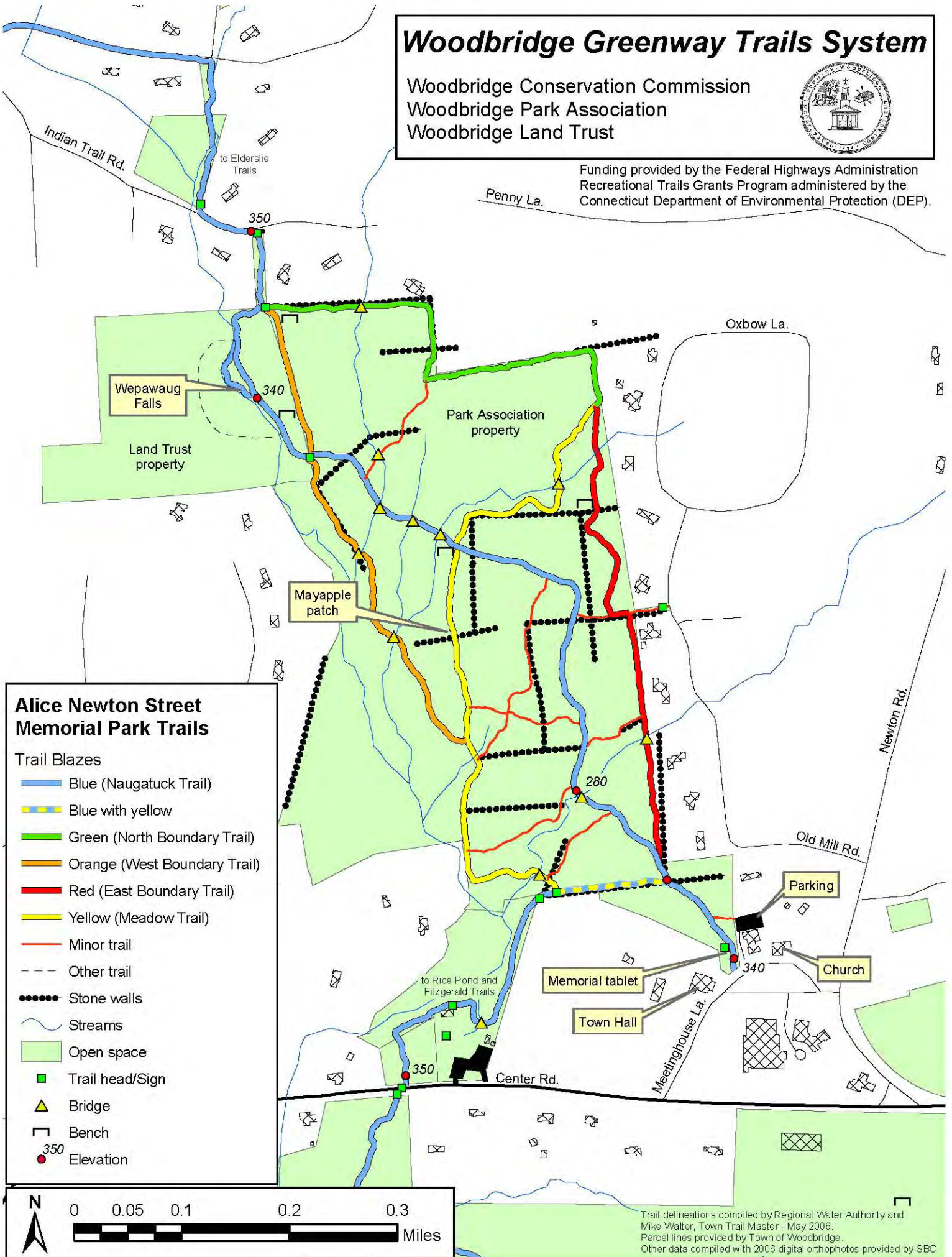
Phone: (203) 234-7555  
Fax: (203) 234-9850  
E-mail: trails@scrcog.org

# Woodbridge Greenway Trails System

Woodbridge Conservation Commission  
 Woodbridge Park Association  
 Woodbridge Land Trust



Funding provided by the Federal Highways Administration  
 Recreational Trails Grants Program administered by the  
 Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).



## Alice Newton Street Memorial Park Trails

### Trail Blazes

- Blue (Naugatuck Trail)
- Blue with yellow
- Green (North Boundary Trail)
- Orange (West Boundary Trail)
- Red (East Boundary Trail)
- Yellow (Meadow Trail)
- Minor trail
- - - Other trail
- Stone walls
- ~ Streams
- Open space
- Trail head/Sign
- ▲ Bridge
- Bench
- 350 Elevation



Trail delineations compiled by Regional Water Authority and Mike Walter, Town Trail Master - May 2006.  
 Parcel lines provided by Town of Woodbridge.  
 Other data compiled with 2006 digital orthophotos provided by SBC.