

The five and one-half acre parcel which the Land Trust has designated the “Ox Pasture” lies in the marsh area near the confluence of the East and Neck Rivers where Bailey Creek joins the Neck River. It is contiguous with other parcels held by the Trust, a total of approximately 90 acres in these marshes. The Ox Pasture Sanctuary itself is elevated dry land, surrounded by marsh with the exception of the access strip from Garnet Park. The observation platform is approached from trailhead to the east. The view from the platform reveals the course of Bailey Creek immediately to the west and north of the structure. Farther to the west, across the marsh, the East River is visible. The house on Grass Island, a classic shoreline landmark, can just be made out where the East River flows into Guilford Harbor. Across the marsh to the northwest lies Cedar Island and the northerly view is generally bounded by the Amtrak/ Metro North tracks. The Neck River passes to the south of the platform. Insects, including ticks, are plentiful during warmer months. Efforts are made to control poison ivy along the trail and in the immediate vicinity of the viewing platform. Nevertheless poison ivy is quite common in the area and should be avoided at all times.

History: From colonial times even up to the early twentieth century, oxen were used to mow and haul salt hay in the marshes. The Ox Pasture is so named because it was used as pasture for these animals by early landowners, including members of two prominent Madison families, the Mungers and the Dudleys. This haying activity has a special resonance for Madison residents because of its portrayal in a classic WPA mural located in the Madison post office. Even earlier use of the property is evidenced by the presence of Native American “middens”, prehistoric deposits of clamshells and charcoal dating back at least to the 1400s. The first recorded purchase of the land was from the Hammonasset tribe in 1641.

In 1950, the property was acquired by Almon Miner Lippincott, a local house painter and avid aviation enthusiast. His mother, Grace Lippincott, was well known as a published Madison poet. Lippincott was prohibited from using local public airfields because he was deaf and mute. He built a hangar and an airstrip long enough to accommodate his Piper Cub. He used these until he stopped flying in the early seventies. The hangar fell into disrepair. Nevertheless, before its eventual collapse, it remained a prominent landmark for canoeists of the lower Neck River and Bailey Creek. The concrete apron, which supported the hangar, still remains and today serves as the foundation for a wildlife observation platform, which was erected by the Trust. The MLCT acquired the property in 1994. Part of the funding for the property was provided through a grant from the Long Island Sound License Plate Fund.

Directions and Parking:

From exit 59 off of Interstate 95 head east on Boston Post Road (Route 1). After about 1.5 miles turn right onto Garnet Park Road. Follow Garnet Park Road until the road ends. Parking is available on the west side of Race Hill Rd; parking area is not plowed in winter.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

The trails areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste. Contact the State Forest HQ for other activities allowed on their sites.



Hiking



Pets on
Leash

For more information about this location, contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
State Forest: Eastern District HQ

www.madisonlandtrust.org

(860) 295-9523

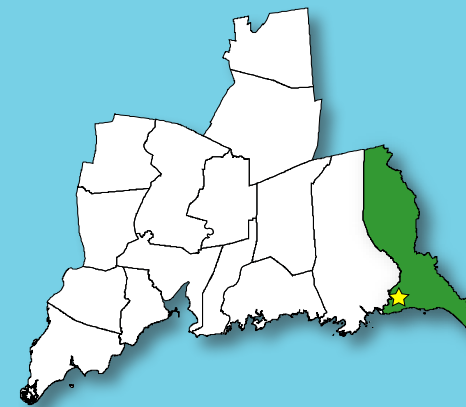
Questions regarding this brochure can be addressed to
South Central Regional Council of Governments
Phone: (203) 234-7555/Fax: (203) 234-9850
E-mail: trails@scrcog.org

Scan QR Code to access the South Central Regional Council of
Governments Recreational Trails Webpage



Recreational Trails South Central Connecticut

Ox Pasture



Madison, CT

Ox Pasture Trail



Sunset at the Ox Pasture by Jack Donat

Trail Description:

Easy walk

Located near the confluence of the East and Neck Rivers, The Ox Pasture Sanctuary is a 5.5 acre parcel of dry land surrounded by salt marsh. A raised viewing platform has been constructed on the site of the former A. Miner Lippincott private airstrip. A viewing platform is a short walk from the parking area along a gravel path. Tick avoidance measures are recommended. Poison ivy may be present.

Total trail length is approx. 0.15 miles

Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  Scenic viewpoint
-  Ox Pasture Trail
-  Town Property
-  Land Trust Property
-  Wetlands

