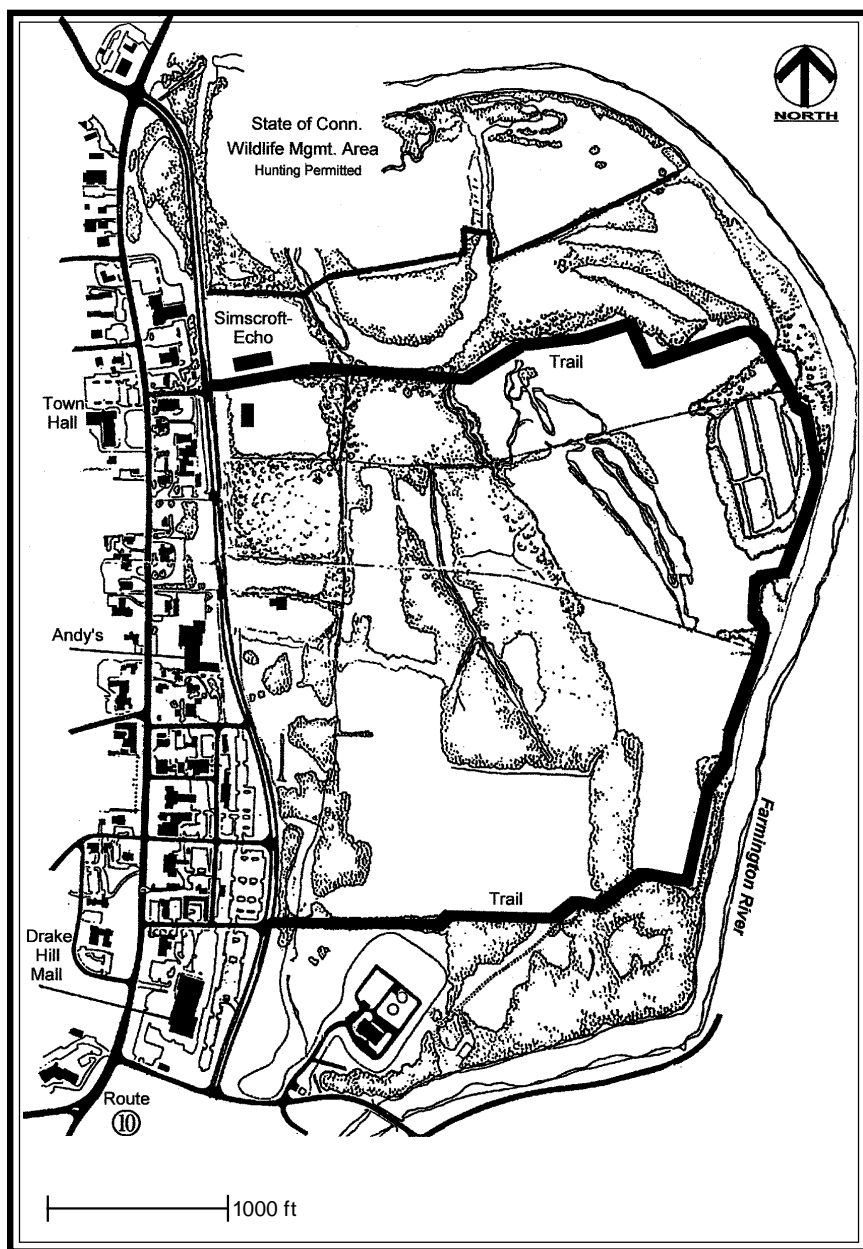


RIVERWALK NATURE TRAIL



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This 2.2 mile loop trail on property in Simsbury Center, also known as Great Meadow, lies entirely in flood-plain. Here you can travel effortlessly from open fields to woodlands, along the Farmington River, and into areas of swamp and marsh. The trail is flat, regularly mowed, and well marked but short stretches can be seasonally wet.

The trail is easily accessible and adjacent to ample parking off Iron Horse Blvd. The best entrance is from the foot of Mall Way via a small set of steps leading east off the bike trail. It leads down a lovely pine colonnade, past a couple of corn fields, then through an open forest next to the river. It next passes through meadows close to an ox-bow of the river, past a swampy area and over ancient farm drainage systems now clogged by beavers. The trail ends at the Simscroft parking lot.

The Great Meadow offers a rich habitat for flora and fauna. A profusion of wildflowers is on exhibit throughout the warm weather, especially in spring. Birds use the area heavily as a stopover point during migration. (A recent survey identified over 100 species of birds, with at least 40% nesting in the area.) Great Horned Owls have been observed raising their offspring while Killdeer nest in the corn-fields. You can frequently see Red-tailed Hawks, wild turkeys, and deer. Oftentimes snapping turtles can be seen

moving between the marsh and river. The views of the river and Talcott Ridge to the east are idyllic, generating a feeling of peace and tranquillity difficult to match elsewhere in the Hartford area.

This is truly a resource to preserve and treasure.

