

WELCOME TO THE SHARON LAND TRUST TRAILS!



Sharon Land Trust
PO Box 1027
Sharon, CT 06069

860.364.5137
info@sharonlandtrust.org

With more than 1,400 acres of land open to public use, the Sharon Land Trust hosts some of the best hiking in Litchfield County (and even Connecticut!). Here's your guide to them all...

Go to sharonlandtrust.org for detailed maps and directions to trails on each of our Preserves.

276 MILLERTON ROAD

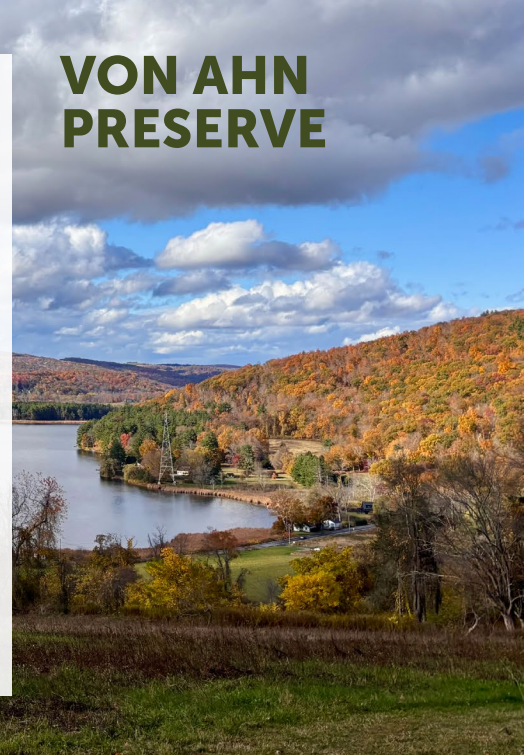
This beautiful property includes the steep northwestern face of Indian Mountain, and is contiguous with the Goodbody Preserve. It is a mosaic of farmland, forest, ridgeline, and wetland that supports wildlife including black bear, porcupine, coyote, and more than 30 species of birds. There are 26 acres of active farm fields with stunning views of Indian Lake and the Millerton Valley. The trail system climbs up to and across the ridgeline and includes a rocky ridge view. Benches offer places to pause and enjoy stunning views. The connector trail on the southeast edge of the trail loop links up with the Goodbody Preserve's trail system and is great for spotting raptors overhead.

Rare habitat: The northern end of the ridge boasts a beautiful and rare mountaintop wetland. Look for amphibians, vibrant moss, and notable water-loving plants.

Best for: Energetic hikers who are up for a good cardio workout.

Coming soon: A new spur trail that will connect the trail system to the Town Beach!

VON AHN PRESERVE



© Sophie Lake-Ginouves

GARRETT GOODBODY PRESERVE

140 MILLERTON ROAD

This preserve lies on the southern reach of Indian Mountain and connects acres of active farmland to one of the highest elevations on Indian Mountain. Three benches can be found along the trail—overlooking Sharon Valley, Millerton Valley, and Mudge Pond—where you can take in some spectacular views. The White Oak Trail joins the Connector Trail, which runs from the Mudge Pond view to the Von Ahn Preserve to the north.

Species spotlight: Along the Connector Trail is a rock shale covered in beautiful and ancient reindeer lichen. The lichen is very fragile, so be sure to stay on the trail to keep it safe.

Best for: Those looking for some exercise, great views, and a hike that can range from one to three hours long.

Listen and look: These woods and fields are home to a multitude of birds, including wood thrush, tree swallow, woodpeckers, raptors, and the rare scarlet tanager.

© Brooke Loening

32 MUDGETOWN ROAD

The Twin Oaks field was bought by the Sharon Land Trust in 1998, after it was threatened with development. The hill held two oaks that had graced the landscape since before the American Revolution. In 2013, the first oak fell, and its twin followed soon after. In 2016, the Land Trust planted two white oaks in the field to serve as a memorial to its rich history, and the Millbrook Garden Club donated entrance gates sculpted of wood from the fallen trees. A favorite with dog owners, the preserve features a one-mile perimeter loop trail around the field, offering outstanding views of Red Mountain and its foothills. Several tribute benches have been installed, so it's a prime spot to bring a picnic!

Listen and look: Look for great blue and green herons, kestrels, and kingbirds in the vast wetlands across from the Twin Oaks field. Listen to the cacophony of singing frogs and toads and, in the summer, watch as fireflies light up the valley.

Best for: Relaxed morning or evening hikes. The sunsets are particularly amazing.

Favorite hidden spot: A tiny spur trail on the lower northeastern side of the loop trail leads into the forest to a stream and small waterfall.

TWIN OAKS PRESERVE



© Brooke Loening



© Sophie Lake-Ginouves

SKIFF MOUNTAIN NORTH PRESERVE

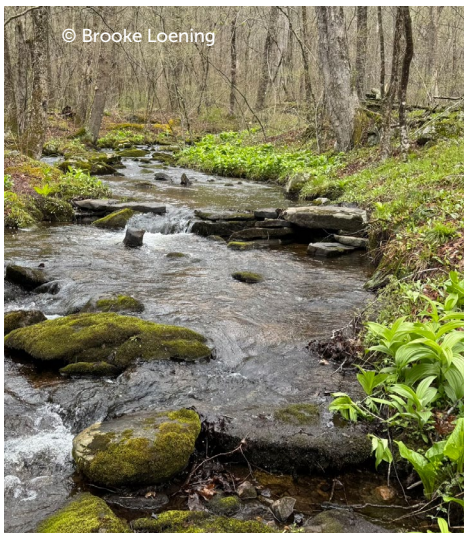
583 SKIFF MOUNTAIN ROAD

Located at the southern end of Sharon, bordering Kent, it features an easy-to-hike loop trail through a variety of habitats. Predominantly forested, it also has lush fields and wetlands. It's home to a variety of plants and wildlife, including an impressive group of forest birds such as broad-winged hawks, warblers and wrens, and the elusive scarlet tanager. The trail system is maintained to equestrian standards and open year-round to horses.

Rare habitat: Along the loop trail is a pine swamp, which hosts a red spruce community that's considered to be one of Connecticut's critical habitats.

Seasonal gem: In late summer and autumn, native wildflowers make the interior field glow golden and thrive with butterflies, owls, hawks, and songbirds.

Best for: Short family hikes for adventurers of all levels, quiet walks, or trail runs.



© Brooke Loening

SHARON MOUNTAIN PRESERVE

189 EAST STREET

Nestled between two ridges, this secluded property contains a beautiful loop trail around a swamp that teems with flora and fauna. Whether you enter from East Street, Bowne Road, or Tichnor Road, you will find pristine rambling streams, hardwood forest stands, rocky hills covered in mountain laurel, plus old charcoal pits and stone walls from hundreds of years ago. These ecosystems are great for kids and adults alike to discover a variety of flowers, mosses, fungi, and animal species. The trails are maintained to equestrian standards and are open year-round to horses.

Best for: Family-friendly hikes and those who like peace and quiet.

Wetland wonders: As you cross the 100-foot-long bog bridge, you'll be surrounded by a vibrant swamp—a perfect place to watch for wood ducks, bald eagles, and turtles, and to listen for frogs and toads.

Best viewpoint: A bench at the intersection of the Bowne Road spur trail offers views into the wetland.



© Brooke Loening

BUCKSBAUM PRESERVE

ON LAMBERT ROAD

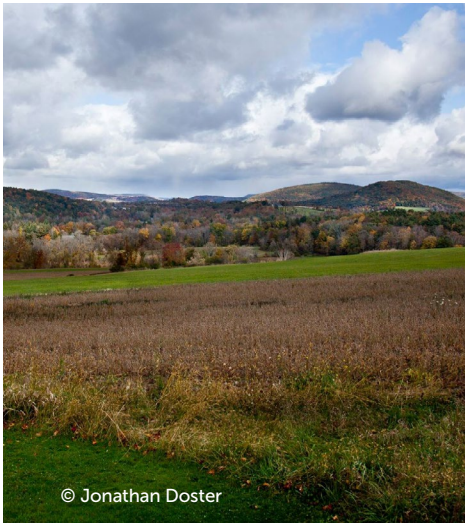
Quarter-of-a-mile east of the intersection with Amenia Union Road (Route 41)

This easy trail meanders through field and forest, offering scenic views of the western Taconics and Catskills. You'll pass through hardwood stands, across hilltops, farmland, and streams. The preserve includes more than 1,800 feet of stream corridor, protecting the water quality of the Mill Brook for future generations. Look for frogs and salamanders near the stream on the northwestern edge of the preserve and enjoy beautiful views from a nearby bench.

Bear in mind: Trails are less maintained than others, and parking can be difficult to access in winter and early spring.

Best viewpoint: You'll catch stunning vistas of the farmland-studded valley from the northeastern corner of the loop trail.

Favorite hidden spot: A waterfall and stream at the loop's northern end.



© Jonathan Doster

BENTON HILL PRESERVE

40 BENTON HILL ROAD

Benton Hill offers a loop trail through an ecosystem that's home to many rare and protected plant and animal species. From the parking area, you'll be greeted by an incredible view of Indian Mountain. Part of the Benton Hill Fen, the preserve is one of only three Connecticut fens that host the endangered bog turtle! A spur trail at the intersection of Route 343 connects with the main loop, offering hikers the chance to hike to Paley's Farm Market nearby.

Don't miss: The loop trail around a small pond—an old cattle drinking hole from when the land was a farm, more than a century ago. It hosts many amphibians, native snakes, and wildlife looking for a drink.

Best viewpoint: A memorial bench by the parking area, with a vista toward Indian Mountain.

Seasonal gem: This trail is great for viewing wildlife tracks in the spring mud or the winter snow. You can see the paths of bobcats, coyotes, turkey, and deer.



101 WESTWOODS ROAD #2

The trails wind through wooded hills and valleys, wetlands and streams, leading to a 1,414-foot summit with a bench and vistas of the Catskills and the Riga-Everett Range. Lower down, the bog view provides a great spot to watch for wetland wildlife. Look out for bedrock outcroppings, thin-soiled geologic formations that can host rare plants. The trails are maintained to equestrian standards and are open year-round to horses.

Habitat spotlight: The bog is a great place to take a break and look for ducks, muskrats, beavers, and herons, while listening for frogs.

Did you know? The wide trails make for great snowshoeing and cross-country skiing terrain in the winter.

Best for: A quiet and relaxing walk through the woods with many options to make a hike as long or as short as you like.

© Brooke Loening

THE D'ALTON PRESERVE

19 STONE HOUSE ROAD

Winding along the forest edge to the beautiful upper reaches of Red Mountain, this property allows you to journey through rock formations, over a headwater stream, and along vernal pools. Also note the slender, towering elm tree that stands next to the trail. The trail then follows the old Stone House Road up Red Mountain. As you climb, you'll hit an intersection with the Ledge Loop trail, which offers lovely views of the farmland below and will take you along the ridgeline of Hamlin, before circling back to the intersection with the main loop. From there, you can either return to Stone House Road or continue through the Wike Brothers Farm connector to Mary Moore. The new Field Loop trail is an easy walk from the parking lot around the fields, along the conifer forest edge, and passes by the state champion Common Apple tree!

Seasonal gem: The Ledge Loop stream, fed by mountain springs. Plus, five trailside vernal pools burst with life in spring—wildflowers, skunk cabbage, false hellebore, and frogs abound.

Habitat restoration: The Field Loop trail takes you through beautiful native meadows, planted by the Land Trust as part of our effort to restore habitat taken over by invasive plants.

HAMLIN PRESERVE

© Brooke Loening



© Bill Wakeley

MARY MOORE PRESERVE

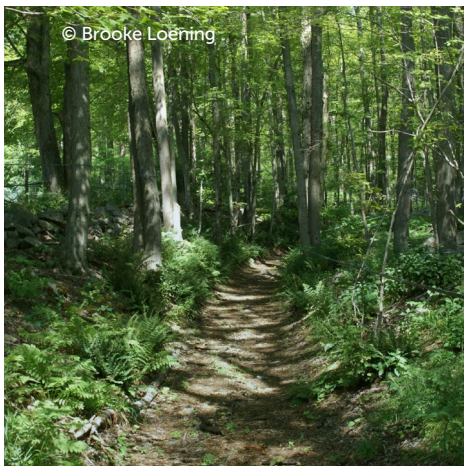
24 WILLIAMS ROAD

One of our most popular properties, Mary Moore Preserve sits on the southwestern reach of the Red Mountain range. It has nearly three miles of trails, with both easy and moderate options. The short climb to the lookout offers one of the best vistas of the Berkshires, with a view that encompasses three states (and benches so you can take a rest!). The loop around the cliff trail features dramatic, moss-covered boulder fields and the state champion Chinkapin Oak. These are part of the Red Mountain trail system, which connects via the Wike Brothers Farm and continues to the Hamlin Preserve, allowing for a longer hike.

Don't miss: Greet the curious cows along the fence line at the start and end of your hike.

Species spotlight: The Connecticut state flower, Mountain Laurel, produces magnificent blooms along the trails from May through June and stays evergreen year-round.

Seasonal Gem: A vernal pool at the northern intersection of the cliff trail, perfect for listening to spring peepers in the evening. Just be sure to head back before dark!



© Brooke Loening

WIKE BROTHERS FARM

38 WHITE HOLLOW ROAD

One of Sharon's oldest and largest family farms, Wike Brothers Farm has been owned and worked by the same family for seven generations. The historic, 268-acre property has evolved from a dairy to a diversified operation that supports free-range chickens, pigs, and grass-fed cattle. As part of the Red Mountain trail system, the Wike Brothers Farm easement connects Hamlin Preserve to Mary Moore Preserve via a roughly half-mile passage.

Please note: Limited parking on White Hollow Road.

Hidden gems: Many of the rocky outcrops along the steep hillside are perfect for taking a break and listening to the sounds of the animals from the farm below.

Best viewpoints: There are incredible vistas along the steep mountainside trail during the early spring and late fall when the leaves are off the trees.