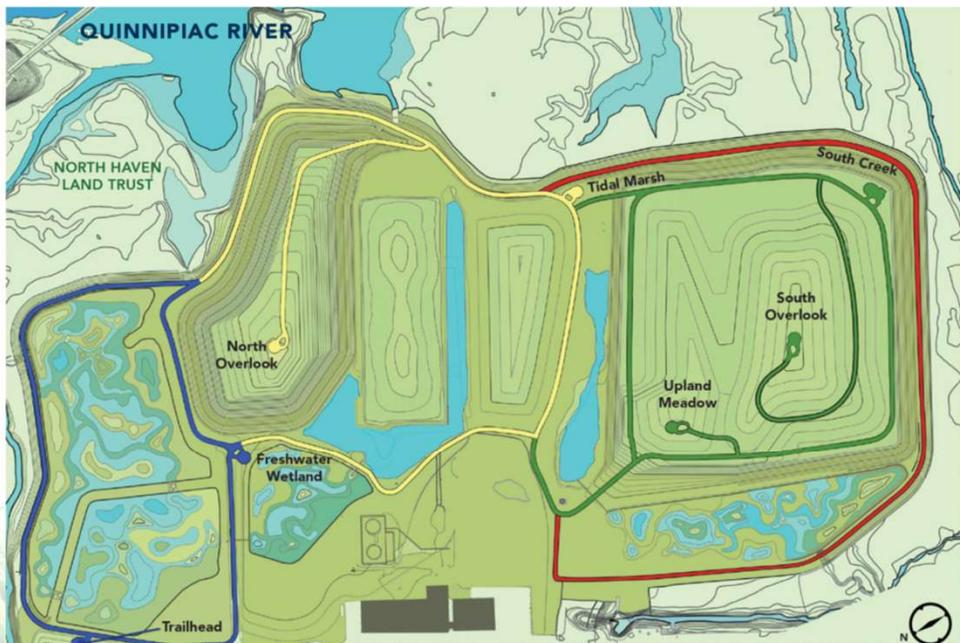




Located along the shore of the Quinnipiac River in North Haven, Connecticut, Brick Yard Point is a 57-acre tract of restored habitat set aside for wildlife while serving to introduce visitors to ecological restoration through self-guided walking trails and educational displays.

### Trail Rules

- Foot traffic only. No bikes, skateboards or motorized vehicles.
- Please enjoy the trail by staying on the path.
- No pets allowed.
- Leave plants in their natural setting.
- Watch for snakes, ticks, wildlife and poison ivy.
- Carry in / carry out - take your trash when you leave.
- No yelling or loud noises as it will disturb wildlife.
- No hunting, fishing or trapping, guns, weapons or alcoholic beverages.
- No public boat, canoe, kayak or water access to/from this property.
- Use of drones is not permitted.
- Smoking, vaping, or other tobacco products are not permitted on the property.



## BLUE TRAIL

The **Blue Trail** starts at the Welcome Kiosk and continues around a generally flat 1/3-mile loop featuring newly restored freshwater wetlands. At the Freshwater Wetland interpretive learning area, visitors can observe the varied plant colonies and critters found along, within and around freshwater wetlands.

### Freshwater Wetland

*The dynamic hydrologic conditions of freshwater wetlands support specifically adapted native plant colonies*



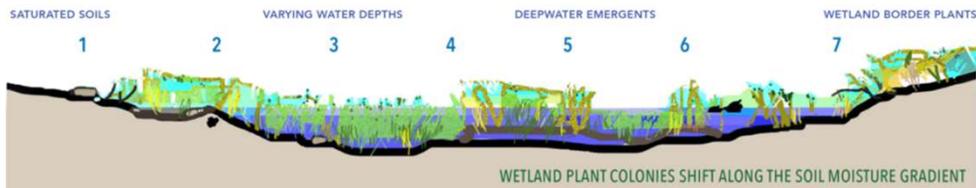
**Pickerelweed** produce large spikes of flowers in summer, support unique bee species and waterfowl, and are efficient biological filters.



**Arrow arum** is an aquatic plant with leaves shaped like an arrowhead. Its egg-sized berries attract wood ducks and other waterfowl.



**New England aster** is a perennial wildflower with bright purple flowers and yellow florets attractive to birds and insect pollinators.



## RED TRAIL

The **Red Trail** circles the southern portion of the property, offering a very different perspective. This half-mile path follows South Creek as it flows out to the Quinnipiac River. Along the way, visitors will pass freshwater wetlands, a tidal marsh and the South Creek estuary.

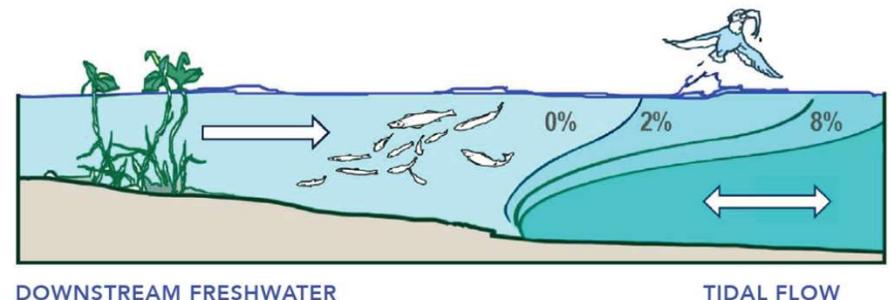
**Eastern box turtles** are a species of Special Concern in Connecticut, due to loss of contiguous habitat from wetland to upland meadows.



**Great egrets** are easily spotted due to their white plumage. They have become adapted to urban environments, even roadway ditches with standing water.



**Great blue heron** are often seen in short flights along shallow water edges. They can winter over in areas where there is open water.





© Michael L. Baird

**Black-crowned night heron** – a species of Special Interest in Connecticut – nest in colonies in secluded trees and islands of the tidal marsh.

## YELLOW TRAIL

The 1/2-mile **Yellow Trail** begins at the Freshwater Wetlands learning center, travels over a small bridge and around the low meadow. Along the eastern boundary of the trail are unique views of the Quinnipiac River and the Tidal Marsh learning center. The mud flats and nutrient rich brackish waters here attract an assortment of birds such as egrets, herons and cormorants. Climb the steep incline to the North Overlook for a clear view of the property and to spot one of the many species of raptors who frequent the area.

## Tidal Marsh

*Birds and fish find diverse and protective habitats within the edges of tidal marshes and estuaries.*

## North Overlook

*Open spaces along the river provide a flyway for seasonal migration of raptors and songbirds.*



**Yellow-rumped warblers** – often seen migrating or foraging in large flocks – molt in spring to reveal striking spring colors of bright yellow, white and grey/black.



© Tony Ferreira

**Killifish** forage on mudflats and tide pools, and can flop over dry land toward water if stranded by the waning tide.



**Double-crested cormorants** pursue fish underwater in fresh or salt water. They are characteristically posed with wings outstretched to dry after diving.



**Ospreys** are unique among North American raptors for the ability to dive into water to catch live fish aided by their hook-like talons.



FRESHWATER SPRINGS 1 2 3 MUDFLATS 4 TIDAL MARSHES 5 NUTRIENT RICH BRACKISH WATERS 6 AQUATIC PLANTS 7 TIDAL FLUX OF THE RIVER

TIDAL MARSHES CLEAN AND FILTER THE ESTUARY, SUPPORTING A RICH DIVERSITY OF WILDLIFE

## GREEN TRAIL

At just over 1/2-mile, the gently sloping **Green Trail** is the longest loop in the network and features three diverse interpretive centers. The Upland Meadow habitat is an imperiled ecosystem along the Quinnipiac which may be why so many song birds, bees and butterflies have congregated here. The South Overlook provides an exceptional view of the Quinnipiac River region. Stop at the South Creek pavilion to learn about the diverse wildlife found in estuaries where rivers and oceans meet.

### Upland Meadow

*Upland meadow habitat is an imperiled ecosystem along the Quinnipiac River and across the northeast.*

**The Quinnipiac River** contains the fourth largest estuary in Connecticut, rich in biological diversity and popular for kayaking and bird watching.

### South Overlook

*Restoration of Brick Yard Point reconnects swamp forests of the upper Quinnipiac region to tidal marshes to the south.*

### South Creek

*Estuaries are among the most productive ecosystems on earth.*

**Brick Yard Point's** wetlands and meadows restore a link in the wildlife corridor and habitats along the Quinnipiac River.



6

**Bayberry** is a salt-tolerant shrub that flourishes along sandy shores. It retains leaves and fruit well into winter, providing food and shelter to late-season birds.



4

**Muskrats** make their homes in muddy banks, with a largely vegetarian diet that helps keep wetland and marsh channels open for waterfowl and fish.



2

**Common whitetail dragonflies** display distinctive checkerboard markings. They patrol wetlands and ponds for mosquitoes and other small insects.



5

**Bumblebees** are among more than 100 species of bees in Connecticut, important as pollinators in sustaining the plants on which they rely.

SOUTH SLOPE: FULL SUN, WARM, DRY      SANDY, WELL DRAINED SOIL      NORTH SLOPE: SHADE, COOL, MOIST

1   2   3   4   5   6   7



WILDFLOWERS AND OTHER PLANTS FLOURISH IN UPLAND MEADOW HABITATS

FRESHWATER WETLAND      UPLAND MEADOW      CREEKS, STREAMS & SPRINGS      MUDFLATS      TIDAL MARSH      RIVER

1   2   3   4   5   6   7



CONNECTING THE WEB OF LIFE WHERE RIVERS AND OCEANS MEET