

Koons Nature Preserve

Via a 1998 act of the Connecticut State Legislature, the Southbury Land Trust received a 40-acre parcel of excess state land on Spruce Brook Road. SLT trustee and treasurer Walter Koons and his wife, Harriet, had long admired the property and subsequently assisted in its acquisition. The preserve was named in honor of them in 1999. Although both are now gone, their passion for the environment lives on in the beautiful Koons Nature Preserve.

The primary scenic feature of the Koons Preserve is the rocky ravine and the numerous waterfalls that are formed when Spruce Brook drops down 170 feet as it flows through the property. This lovely gorge is host to a microclimate that is shady and more humid in summer, allowing cooler air to accumulate there. Such cool, moist microclimates are botanically interesting because they often host plants common to northern New England.

The wooded area of the property consists mostly of hardwoods, dramatic wild grape vines and stands of hemlock. These woodlands provide valuable habitat for interior-nesting birds and a variety of mammals.

The trail, originally blazed by Gerry Ivers, is a loop approximately one mile long with the option of a crossover. An Eagle Scout project rehabilitated the trail by removing trees, installing water bars and clearing considerable swathes of invasive barberry. The first third of the trail is steep, narrow and challenging, particularly along the brook. After this point, a bench to rest and enjoy the babbling brook awaits the hiker. The trail then proceeds upland, crosses a large old, zig-zagged stone wall and offers the option to take Dick's Crossover Trail back to the trailhead. Pull-off parking is available on the shoulder of the westbound side of Spruce Brook Road directly across from the trail entrance and again another 700 feet further up the road. Have fun!

Support Our Mission



You can help the Southbury Land Trust to preserve farmland, open spaces and other natural resources in Southbury by including a bequest in your will. We will gladly supply the wording to insert in your document.

Another option is to set up a Charitable Remainder Trust and receive a tax deduction as well as income from your donation for the rest of your life. Our attorney will be happy to draft a proposal for you and your attorney to review. For more details, please call our office at (203) 264-4441, write PO Box 600, Southbury, CT 06488 or email@southburylandtrust.org

All Trail Maps and Newsletters available at
www.southburylandtrust.org

Preserve Policy

- Preserves are open from sunrise to sunset.
- Please stay on the designated trails and respect private property.
- Wear red or orange during hunting season.
- Bring a walking stick or hiking pole.
- No dumping, littering, smoking, fires, swimming, hunting, trapping or motorized vehicles allowed.
- Help keep the preserves clean.
- Pets must be leashed.

Thank you, *Southbury Land Trust, June 2007*

Southbury Land Trust

KOONS PRESERVE TRAIL MAP

The Southbury Land Trust Inc., founded in 1978, is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of Southbury's natural resources and farmland for the enjoyment and benefit of all present and future residents.

The Trust is supported solely by memberships and donations. All dues, contributions, bequests, memorials and gifts of stock are tax deductible. The Trust's over 800 acres of open space are stewarded by volunteer land monitors.

The office is located at 68 1/2 Bennett Square. (Mailing address P.O. Box 600, Southbury, CT 06488). Please call (203)264-4441 with questions regarding membership, land donations, contributions, volunteering or office hours. For a calendar of events, consult the website at

www.southburylandtrust.org



Funding for this map provided by
The Newtown Savings Bank

SOUTHBURY LAND TRUST Koons Preserve



LEGEND

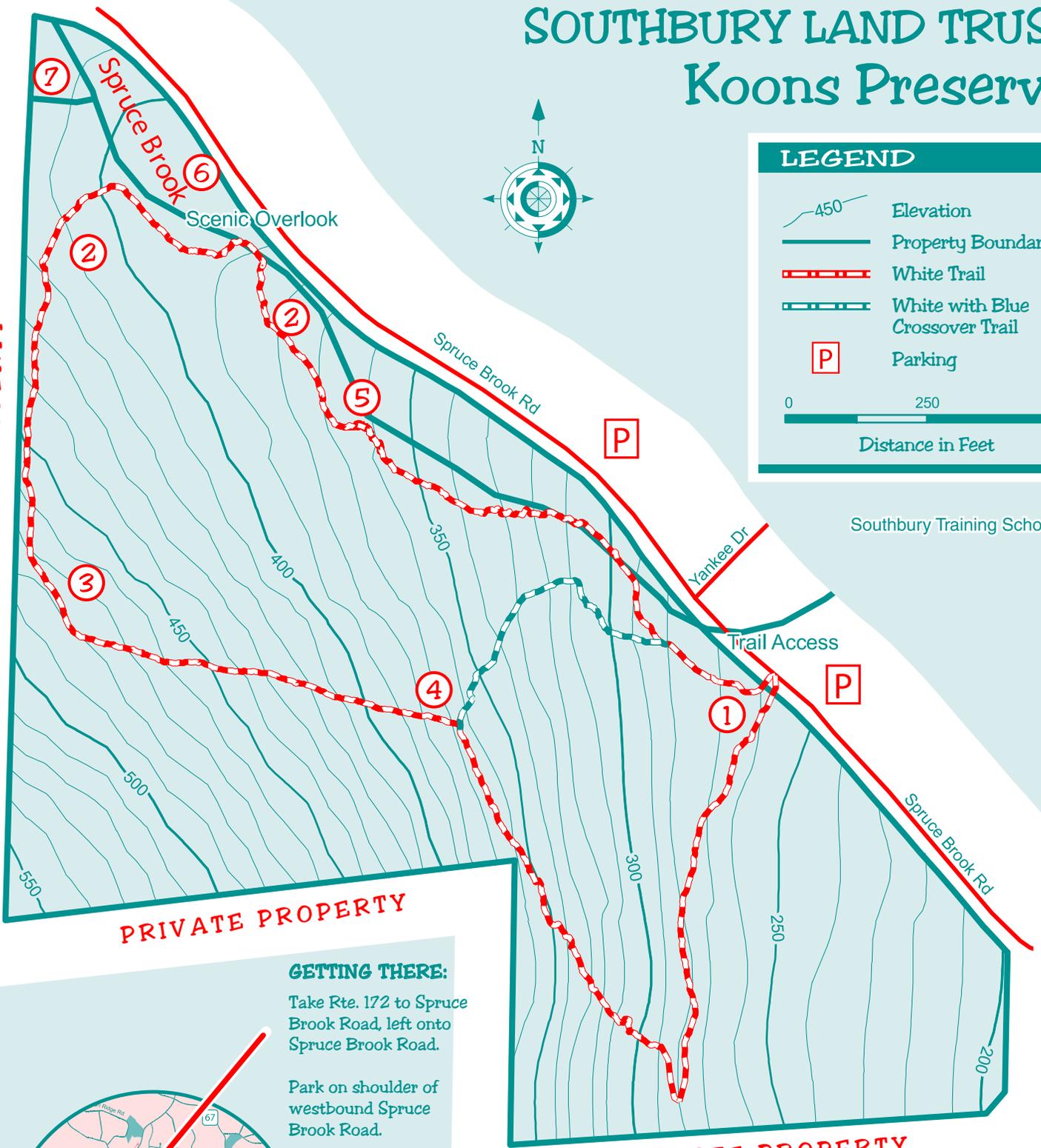
- 450 Elevation
- Property Boundaries
- White Trail
- White with Blue Crossover Trail
- Parking



PRIVATE PROPERTY

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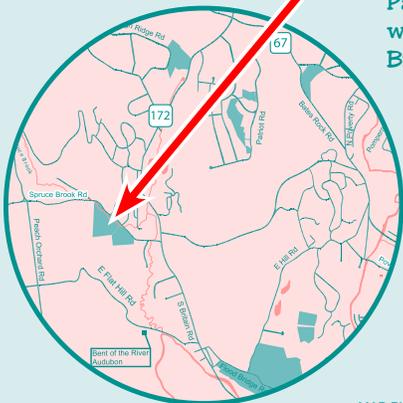
Southbury Training School

Trail Access

GETTING THERE:

Take Rte. 172 to Spruce Brook Road, left onto Spruce Brook Road.

Park on shoulder of westbound Spruce Brook Road.



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|---|-------------------|
| 1. Dedication Plaque | 5. Bench |
| 2. Wetlands | 6. Brook Overlook |
| 3. Stone Wall | 7. Spruce Brook |
| 4. Connection with Dick's Crossover (white w/ blue) | |