





Little Laurel Lime Park

Owned by , the Town of Seymour

Trail Length:

Southern Loop Trail: 1.82 miles, moderate to difficult

Northern Loop Trail: 1.29 miles, moderate

Boundary Loop Trail: 1.98 miles, moderate to difficult

Directions:

From the Holbrook Road/ Route 188/ Route334 traffic circle, travel east on Route 334. Turn left onto Laurel Lane. Continue onto Tibbets Road. Park at the dead end. GPS Location (N41 21.540835 W-73 7.629782)

Highlights:

125 Marble Caves. This marble was originally a large coral reef that surrounded a volcanic island in an ancient ocean. During the formation of Pangea, the ocean was subducted under Proto-North America. The coral reef was compressed, heated, and metamorphosized into the marble rocks you now see. Notice how the rain water seems to have melted and washed away the marble due to our slightly acidic rain. Now take a look at the dark rock that was deposited on top of the marble. This rock, called hornblende schist, was originally laid down during a series of volcanic eruptions that coated the coral reef with multiple layers of volcanic ash.

103 and 149 Overlook of Housatonic and Primary Succession. This is a good example of primary succession. During the last ice age, the glaciers scraped away everything in its path, leaving only the bedrock behind. The soil you see here has formed within the last 10,000 years. Lichens are the first to colonize the bare rock. As dust and other airborne particles settled into the nooks and crannies of the lichen, primordial soil begins to form which leads to the colonization of the mosses. Once there is a base layer thick enough to support roots, grasses adapted to dry sites will colonize, then hardy shrubs such as lowbush blueberry which will become a nursery for trees such as pines and oaks. Can you find the bare rock, lichens, mosses, grasses, and shrubs?



Red Pine Needles
and Cone



White Pine Needles
and Cone

76 Red Pines Trees. Look carefully, can you find the Red Pine trees? Red Pine trees are somewhat unusual in Connecticut. They are outnumbered by the White Pine trees. The difference between a red pine and the more common white pine is the number of needles each has per cluster. Red pines have two needles per cluster while white pines have five.