

PETERSON GORGE

OS 31

16 acres

ACCESS/PARKING:

- Virginia Court—Trail starts at the fire hydrant in front of house No. 41. [GPS Address: 35 Virginia Court]
- Ridgebury School—Trail enters the woods at the top of the field above the school.
- Partridge Drive. [GPS Address: 42 Partridge Drive]

DIFFICULTY: Easy. 30 minutes. May be combined with Ridgebury Slope via the Blue trail.

FEATURES: This loop trail runs along a ridge and stream with several bridge crossings and is ideal for family exploration. The sandy ridge offers an unusually varied stand of evergreens. Wildflowers, including trout lily and jack-in-the-pulpit, are abundant in Spring, and there are large areas of horsetail and ferns. The Snake Lake wetland is home for frogs, salamanders, and turtles.

HISTORY: Peterson Gorge was purchased in 1967 by The Nature Conservancy from a developer for \$28,500. The Conservation Commission then paid \$28,500 to the Conservancy to transfer the property. Gifts from the Richardson estate and Lewis Fund helped make this acquisition possible.

RIDGEBURY SLOPE

OS 35

14 acres

ACCESS/PARKING:

- Cul-de-sac at the end of Partridge Drive. [GPS Address: 42 Partridge Drive]
- Ridgebury School—trail enters woods south of school.

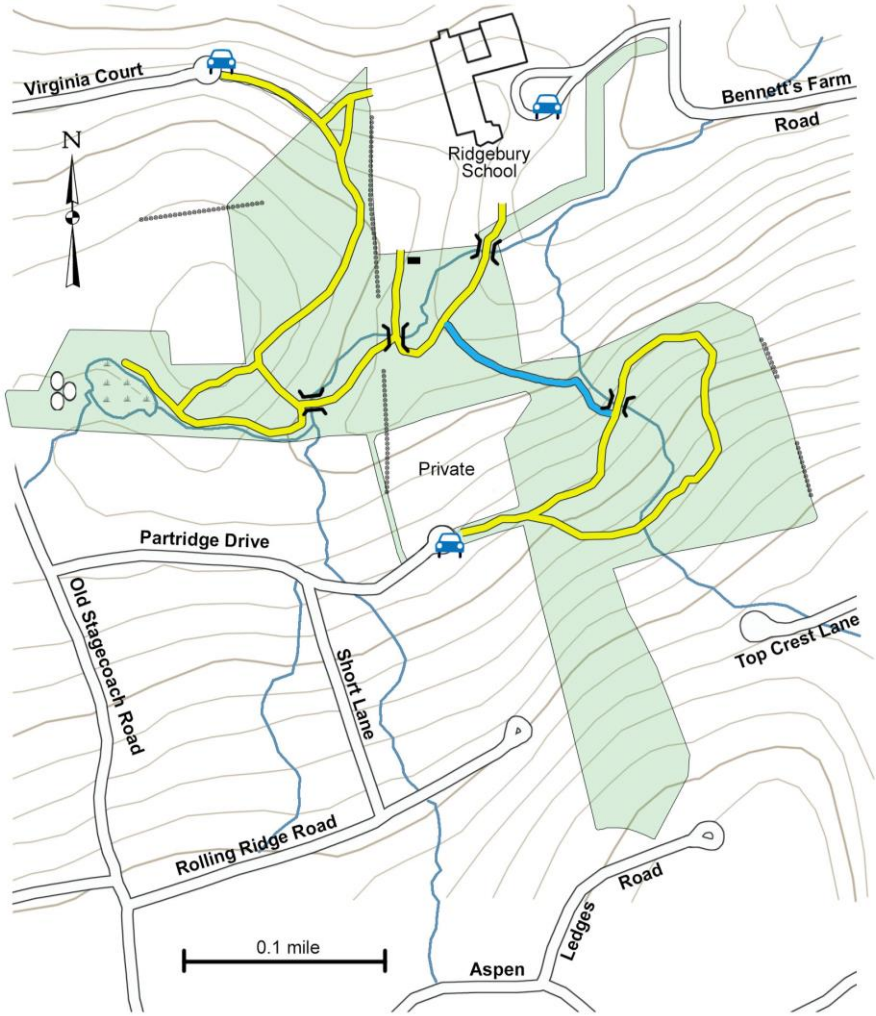
DIFFICULTY: Easy. 30 minutes. May be combined with Peterson Gorge via the Blue trail.

FEATURES: Ridgebury Slope is a short woodland walk with a variety of educational signage along the trail. A grove of ferns, an active stream that pours over flat boulders, and an enormous rock outcropping are key features.

HISTORY: The property is adjacent to the Ridgebury School playground and was purchased from Nicholas Cugene in 1973 for \$30,000. Grants from the CT Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and funds from the Commission's Open Space Fund went toward its purchase.

PETERSON GORGE RIDGEBURY SLOPE

OS 31
OS 35



Legend

- | | | | | | |
|---|------------|---|---------------------|---|------------|
|  | Open Space |  | Parking |  | Stone wall |
|  | Trails |  | Bridge |  | Wetlands |
| | |  | Educational Signage | | |