

## THE DUNCAN PRESERVE

### Directions:

- From Route 82 about 1/4 mile east of East Haddam Village, turn onto Porges Road.
- Stay left on Porges Road. (The road forks to the right, which is Creek Row.)
- Park off the road on the left, in front of the EHLT, Duncan Preserve sign.

### Permitted Activities:

- ◆ Hiking
- ◆ Nature study
- ◆ Snowshoeing
- ◆ Birding

No motorized vehicles are allowed on the property.

For more information or to report any problems during your visit, see:  
[www.ehlt.org](http://www.ehlt.org)

### Trail Facts:

- ◇ The blue loop trail is .6 miles long.
- ◇ The trail winds through mixed hardwood forest to points that overlook the Connecticut River.
- ◇ The trail also winds through mountain laurel groves, side slopes and over knobs of ledge and moss.
- ◇ There are some steep sections on the trail and a crossing of a small stream.
- ◇ The red trail is .3 miles long and is accessed from the blue trail.
- ◇ The red trail has some short, steep sections and can also be accessed from Hem Street.
- ◇ The .06 mile white trail branches off of the red trail and runs parallel to Route 82. It ends at Creek Row.



EAST HADDAM  
YOUTH AND FAMILY  
SERVICES

## EAST HADDAM TRAILS

### THE DUNCAN PRESERVE

The 19.4 acre Duncan Preserve was donated to East Haddam Land Trust in 2010. Its history goes back to about 1670 when the first East Haddam settlers moved into the area along Creek Row, the first road in town. The outline of the first Episcopal church's foundation, built by William Gelston about 20 years after the Revolutionary War, is still visible along the blue trail and there is evidence that the cut granite foundation stones were quarried nearby. The property remained with the Gelston family until it was sold to William Duncan who had wed Rebecca Gelston. They planned to build on the site until the stock market crash of 1929 changed their dreams of a mansion. Instead, they refurbished the existing livestock barn into a summer cottage. After their daughter, Dorothy, passed away, the executors of her estate sold the property to the Connecticut River Gateway Commission who then donated it to the EHLT.



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