

The Crystal Peat Conservation Area is a 30.5 acre parcel at the northern part of Cook Road. The land was donated to the Town of Tolland by the Crystal Peat Humus Company in 2013.

The property lies along the east side of the "old Cook Road". This road used to be the connection to Ladd Road and Route 140 in Ellington.

The terrain is very flat. Most of the north and east sides of the area is wetlands, particularly in the peat bog area and near the brook. In the middle of the property, there is a 0.3 acre pond surrounded by heavy undergrowth. Brooks Brook starts on this property and flows south, joining the Skungamaug River just before entering the Charter Marsh.

This property was once used to produce peat. A drainage ditch was dug around the perimeter and drained to the low side of the bog. Then, surface vegetation was removed. To reduce the moisture in the top layer of the bog, shallow parallel ditches that drained into the perimeter ditch were dug, which allowed the surface to dry so that harvesting equipment could be used. The fields between the parallel ditches were then profiled so that rain water would drain to the ditches. Sun and wind dry the surface peat layer with the uppermost layer usually harrowed, breaking capillary flow and enhancing the drying process. The dry peat layer was then collected and transported to a processing facility for screening and packaging.

There remain two rectangular foundations and a tall concrete wall that was used to load peat for shipping. The wall now has a wonderful mural painted by students in the Tolland High School Art Society.

Conservation Commission website

[www.tolland.org](http://www.tolland.org)

Conserving Tolland website

[www.conservingtollandct.org](http://www.conservingtollandct.org)

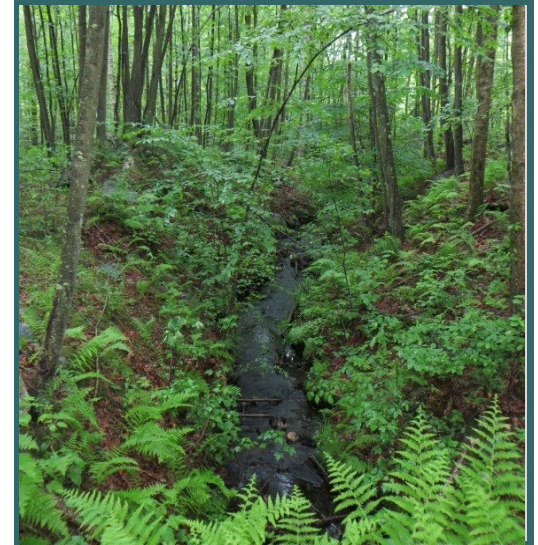
PLEASE...

- Dogs must be leashed and controlled.
- Leave no trace.
- No littering. Carry out what you carry in.
- No motorized vehicles.
- Do not disturb vegetation or wildlife.
- Stay on marked trails and roads.
- No hunting or firearms allowed.
- No setting of fires.
- No horseback riding.
- Respect the rights of other visitors.
- Area is closed from sunset to sunrise. Night use is by permit only.
- Notify the Conservation Commission of organized group activities.

Some Conservation Areas have been purchased with Town of Tolland open space referendum funds and grants from the Connecticut DEEP. The maintenance of our open space parcels is everyone's responsibility. The Town has designated that the Conservation Commission develop a management plan for each parcel. Then the dedicated volunteers of the Tolland Conservation Corps prepare the conservation property for public access and provide stewardship, maintenance and upgrades as needed. For more information, please contact the Tolland Development Office at 860-871-3601.



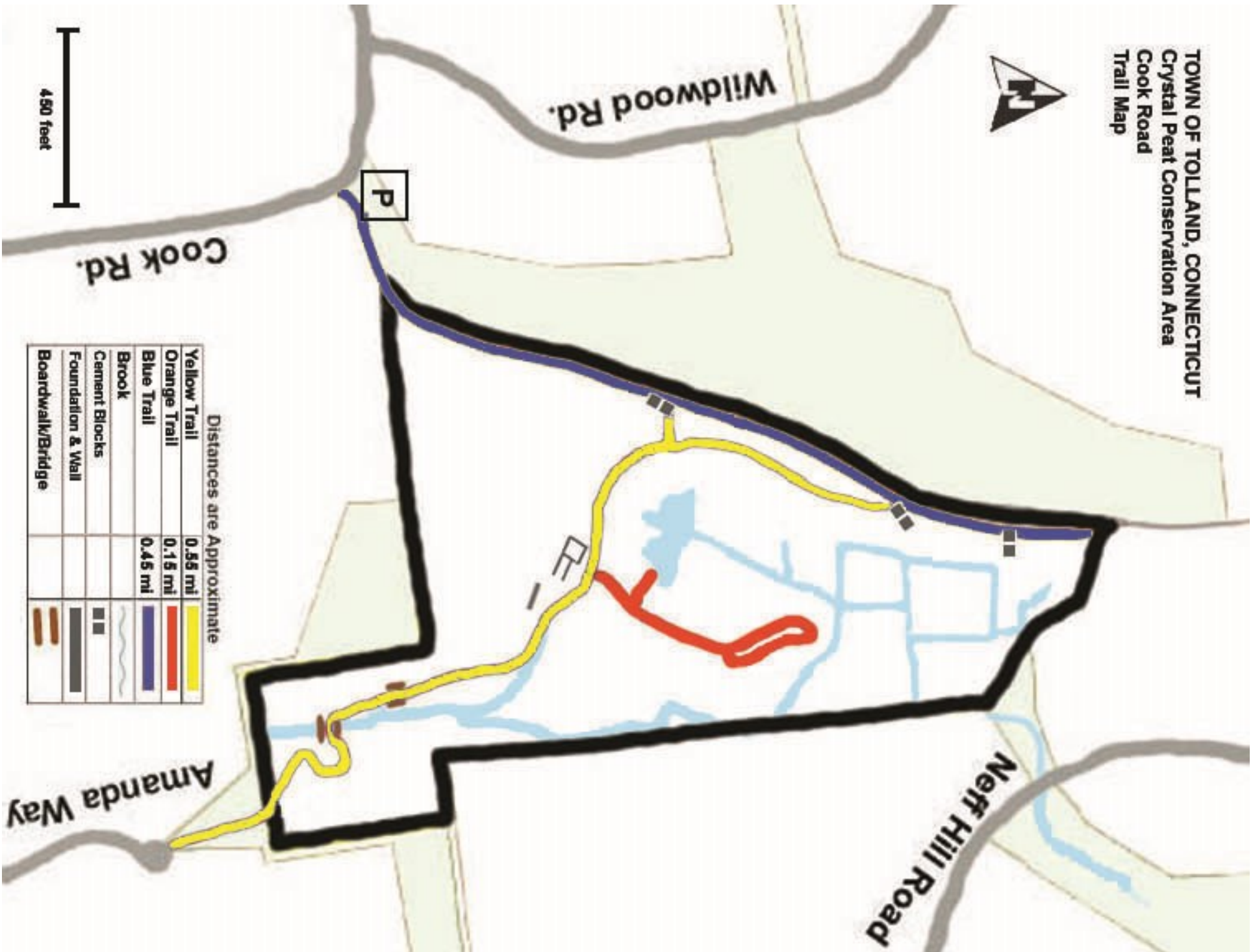
## Trail Map and Information Guide







**Crystal Peat  
Conservation Area  
Cook Road  
Tolland, Connecticut**

Flyer created 9-2015

**TOWN OF TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT**  
**Crystal Peat Conservation Area**  
**Cook Road**  
**Trail Map**



Distances are Approximate

Yellow Trail	0.55 mi	
Orange Trail	0.15 mi	
Blue Trail	0.45 mi	
Brook		
Cement Blocks		
Foundation & Wall		
Boardwalk/Bridge		

450 Feet