

## A NATURAL HARMONY

*“There are days which occur in this climate, at almost any season of the year, wherein the world reaches its perfection, when the air, the heavenly bodies, and the earth, make a harmony, as if nature would indulge her offspring,”*

(from the essay “Nature” by Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1844)

Such a harmony exists every day in The Last Green Valley. Formed by inter-related systems of forests, streams, wetlands, active farms, small cities, villages and open spaces, The Last Green Valley has national significance. It remains the last large undeveloped area amidst the densely populated East Coast sprawl. The Quinebaug and the Shetucket watersheds encompass lands in southern Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut, a surprisingly rural island still 75% forests and farms despite the enormous economic and population changes of the 20th century.

Gentle hills and valleys dominate the physical features of these watersheds which were formed by ancient processes that created The Last Green Valley. A base of metamorphic bedrock, created by a continental collision millions of years ago, has been eroded by eons of weathering and glaciating. Stones and the soil that remained after the retreat of the last glacier still dominate the landscape. Hundreds of miles of stone walls, built by farmers clearing land for fields, were created from stones deposited by the glaciers. These stone walls remain notable features and their story serves as a reminder of the rich natural and agricultural history of The Last Green Valley.

Much of the agricultural land that was intensively farmed has now reverted to forests where a critical interdependency between plants and animals exists. Trees supply food for animals that in turn transport the seeds and nuts to other locations where they sprout and regenerate the tree species. Dead trees provide homes for smaller animals. Species such as moose, fisher and bear are reappearing after decades of absence because of the quality of habitats in The last Green Valley.

The wetlands system has great ecological benefits and supports diverse species of plants and animals. Extensive marshes, bogs and swamps feed into an abundance of intersecting streams, ponds and lakes. Each type of wetland has variations in soil type, topography, climate, hydrology, water chemistry and vegetation. They are links in a delicate environmental chain.

The open areas of meadows, shrub growth, abandoned orchards and roadsides are transitional habitats, important to red fox, raccoons, skunks, rabbits and chipmunks. Plants like goldenrod, chicory and milkweed are commonly found in these areas. Milkweed is essential to the life cycle of the monarch butterfly, and their lovely orange and black forms may be seen emerging late in summer in the open area habitats.

Emerson said, “Nature is loved by what is best in us.” Throughout The Last Green Valley, state and local governments, private environmental organizations, land trusts and individuals work to protect the plants and animal species of the region by creating trails, wildlife sanctuaries and nature centers, and by preserving open spaces. By doing so, we preserve the quality of life for residents and the recreational opportunities for visitors – in harmony with nature.

# Last Green Valley

# WILD Venture



## A Guide Map to the Natural Harmony of The Last Green Valley

The Last Green Valley is a National Heritage Corridor, a treasure tucked a world away from the stress and bustle of the 21st century. It is the last large tract of predominately undeveloped land in the coastal sprawl between Boston and Washington, D.C. Enjoy our beautiful waterways, verdant pastures, lush forests and abundant wildlife.

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

1 (866) 363-7226 toll free

Mystic Country  
CONNECTICUT

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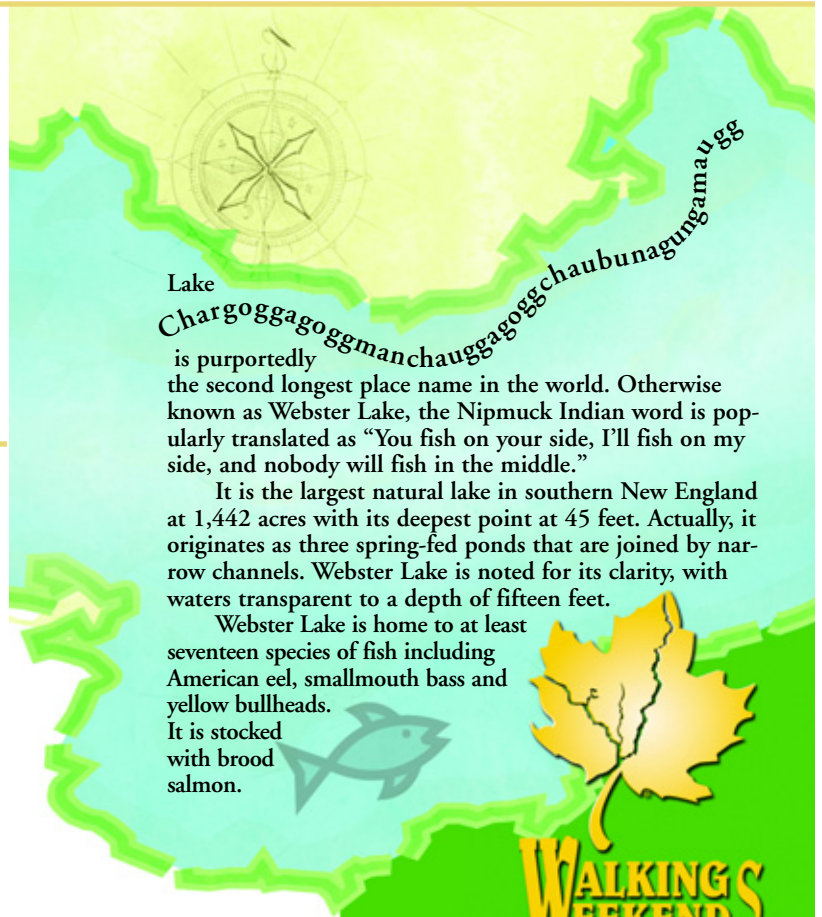
## QUINEBAUG-SHETUCKET HERITAGE CORRIDOR, INC.

*Preserving the Last Green Valley*

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(860) 963-7226  
Fax (860)928-2189  
[www.thelastgreenvalley.org](http://www.thelastgreenvalley.org)

## Natural History ATTRACTIONS

- 1 **Capen Hill Nature Sanctuary**  
Capen Road off Route 20, Charlton, MA  
[www.capenhill.org](http://www.capenhill.org)  
508-248-5516  
*Visitor Center hours daily from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., trails available from dawn to dusk, the only animal rehabilitation and rescue facility in central Massachusetts.*
- 2 **Connecticut Audubon Society at Pomfret**  
189 Pomfret Street (Route 169),  
Pomfret Center, CT 06259  
[www.ctaudubon.org](http://www.ctaudubon.org)  
860-928-4948  
*Center hours Wed-Sat., 12-4 p.m., 700-acre Bafflin Sanctuary open daily dawn to dusk.*
- 3 **Connecticut Audubon Society at Trailwood**  
93 Kenyon Road, Hampton, CT 06247  
[www.ctaudubon.org](http://www.ctaudubon.org)  
*Site of Edwin Teale's home and subject of author's writings on nature. The 168-acre sanctuary includes a small museum. Trails open dawn to dusk.*
- 4 **Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center**  
University of Connecticut, Hillside Road,  
Storrs, CT [www.cac.uconn.edu](http://www.cac.uconn.edu),  
860-486-4460  
*open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 1-4 pm.*
- 5 **MassAudubon, Pierpont Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary**  
Marsh Road  
Dudley, MA 05171  
[www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org), 978-464-2712, trails.  
*Open daily from dawn to dusk.*
- 6 **Old Sturbridge Village**  
1 Old Sturbridge Village Road  
Sturbridge, MA 01566  
[www.osv.org](http://www.osv.org)  
800-SEE-1830, *open daily 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.*  
*Boat rides on the Quinebaug River, access to trail system.*
- 7 **Quinebaug Valley Trout Hatchery**  
Trout Hatchery road  
off Route 14, Central Village, CT 06332  
860-564-7542  
*open daily 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.. One of the largest hatcheries in the East producing over 320,000 pounds of trout annually.*



Lake  
**Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg**  
is purportedly  
the second longest place name in the world. Otherwise  
known as Webster Lake, the Nipmuck Indian word is pop-  
ularly translated as "You fish on your side, I'll fish on my  
side, and nobody will fish in the middle."

It is the largest natural lake in southern New England  
at 1,442 acres with its deepest point at 45 feet. Actually, it  
originates as three spring-fed ponds that are joined by nar-  
row channels. Webster Lake is noted for its clarity, with  
waters transparent to a depth of fifteen feet.

Webster Lake is home to at least  
seventeen species of fish including  
American eel, smallmouth bass and  
yellow bullheads.  
It is stocked  
with brood  
salmon.

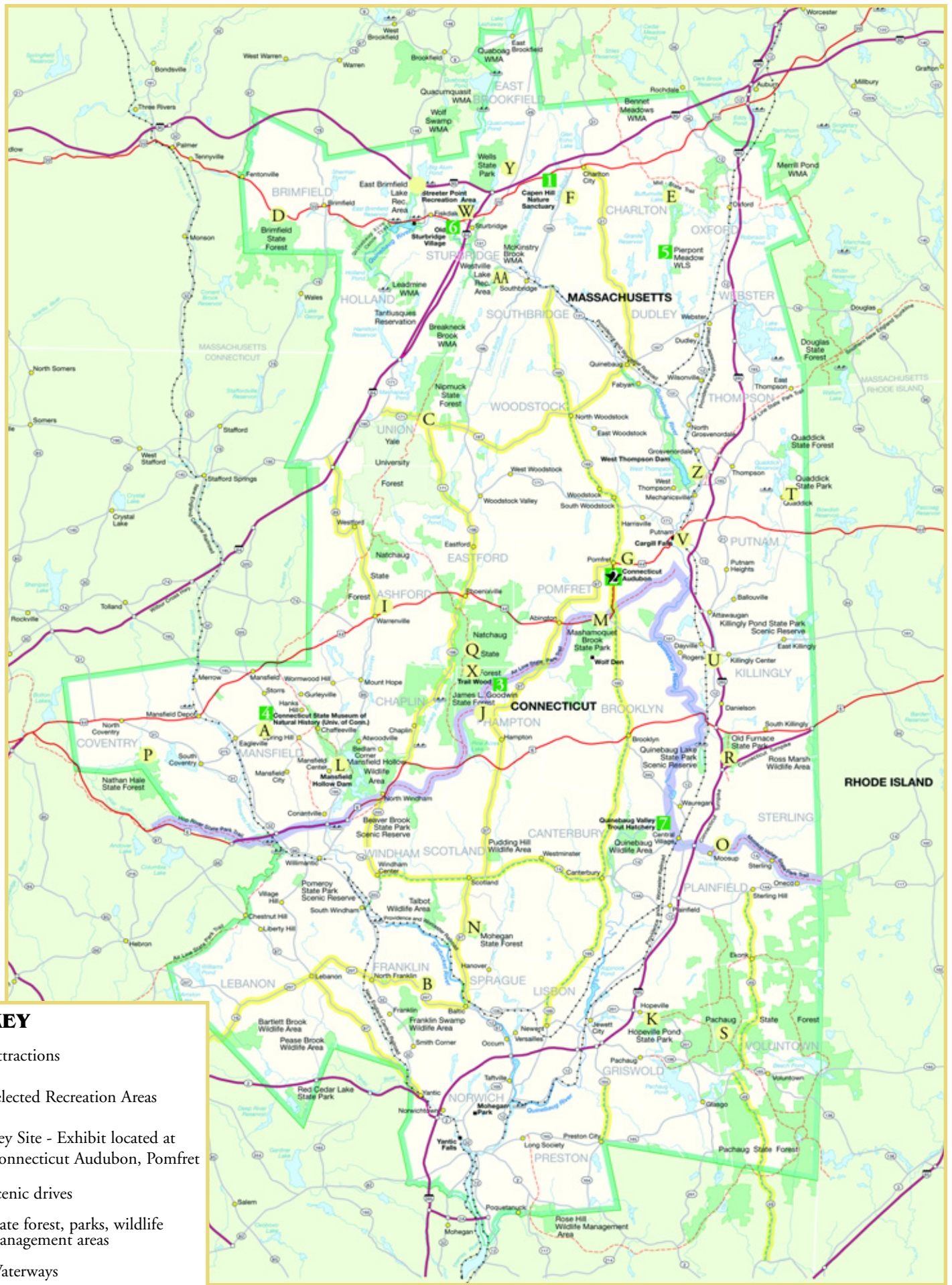
## WALKING WEEKENDS

Join us each year for Walking  
WeekendS, the 2nd and 3rd weekends  
of October. Then the green of summer  
turns suddenly gold – the fields ripple  
with it – the hillsides blaze with it – the  
valley is breathtaking. Nearly 100 free,  
guided walks are scheduled to afford  
maximum time in the beautiful out-  
doors. The year's new brochure is avail-  
able at the end of August and may be  
requested by calling toll-free 866-363-  
7226 or it may be downloaded from  
our website [www.thelastgreenvalley.org](http://www.thelastgreenvalley.org).

## GUIDEBOOKS to the natural wonders of The Last Green Valley

- **Appalachian Mountain Club**  
[www.amcstore.outdoors.org](http://www.amcstore.outdoors.org)  
*AMC River Guide: Massachusetts/Connecticut/  
Rhode Island, 3rd edition*  
*Massachusetts Trail guide*  
*Quiet Water Massachusetts, Connecticut, and  
Rhode Island: Canoe and Kayak Guide*
- **Connecticut Department of Environmental  
Protection bookstore**  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
[www.dep.state.ct.us](http://www.dep.state.ct.us)  
860-424-3555  
*Pathways through Connecticut, A Transportation  
Guide to Multi-Use Trails, a guide to state and  
municipal trails in Connecticut.*
- *A Shared Landscape,  
A Guide & History of Connecticut's State Parks  
& Forests.*
- **Connecticut Forest and Parks Association**  
16 Meriden Road  
Rockfall, CT 06481-2961  
[www.ctwoodlands.org](http://www.ctwoodlands.org)  
860-346-8733  
*Connecticut Walk Book,*  
a comprehensive guide to the blue-blazed hik-  
ing trails of Connecticut.

- **Essex County Greenbelt Association**  
82 Eastern Avenue  
Essex, MA 01929  
[www.ecga.org](http://www.ecga.org)  
978-768-7241  
*Wild Plants I Have Known and Eaten, by Russ  
Cohen*
- **Joshua's Trust**  
860-429-9023  
*Joshua's Tract Walk Book, a detailed guide book  
to the land trust's properties and trails.*



**KEY**

- # Attractions
- A Selected Recreation Areas
- ★ Key Site - Exhibit located at Connecticut Audubon, Pomfret
- Scenic drives
- State forest, parks, wildlife management areas
- Waterways
- Major Trails
- East Coast Greenway

## Selected Outdoor Recreation Areas

	MAP LOCATION	PICNIC AREAS	SWIMMING	FISHING	BOATING	HIKING	X-CNTY SKIING	TRAILS/ EXHIBITS	CAMPING	HUNTING	REST- ROOMS
Albert E. Moss Forest, Rts. 195 and 275, Mansfield, CT	A					X					
Bailey's Ravine at Ayer's Gap, Under the Mountain Rd. (off Rt. 207), Franklin, CT	B					X					
Bigelow Hollow State Park, Rt. 171, Union, CT	C	X	X		X	X				X	
Brimfield State Forest, off Rt. 20, Brimfield, MA	D	X	X	X		X		X		X	X
Buffumville Lake Recreation Area, off Rt. 12, Oxford, MA	E	X	X	X	X	X			X		
Capen Hill Nature Sanctuary, off Rt. 20, Charlton, MA	F					X		X			X
Connecticut Audubon & Bafflin Sanctuary, Rte. 169, Pomfret Center, CT	G					X		X			X
East Brimfield Lake Recreation Area, off Rt. 20, Sturbridge, MA	H	X	X	X	X	X					
Friedman Memorial Forest, Bebbington Rd. (off Bicknell from Rt. 89), Ashford, CT	I					X					
James L. Goodwin State Forest, Rt. 6, Hampton, CT	J	X		X		X	X	X			
Hopeville Pond State Park, Rt. 201, Griswold, CT	K	X	X	X	X	X			X		
Mansfield Hollow State Park, Bassetts Bridge Rd., Mansfield, CT	L	X		X		X					
Mashamoquet Brook State Park, Rt. 44, Pomfret, CT	M	X	X	X		X			X		
Mohegan State Forest, Rt. 97, Scotland, CT	N					X				X	
Moosup Valley State Park Trail, River St. (off Rt. 14), Plainfield, CT	O					X					
Nathan Hale State Forest, South St. (off Rt. 31), Coventry, CT	P			X		X					
Natchaug State Forest, Rt. 198, Eastford, CT	Q	X		X	X	X				X	
Old Furnace State Park, Rt. 6 eastbound, Killingly, CT	R					X	X				
Pachaug State Forest, Rt. 49, Voluntown, CT	S	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	
Quaddick State Park, East Putnam Rd. (off Rt. 44), Thompson, CT	T	X	X	X	X						
Quinebaug River Trail, Rt. 6, Killingly, CT	U					X					
Quinebaug River Trail, Kennedy Dr., Putnam, CT	V					X					X
Streeter Point Recreation Area, off Rt. 20, Sturbridge, MA	W		X	X		X				X	
Trailwood, 93 Kenyon Rd. (off Rt. 97), Hampton, CT	X					X		X			X
Wells State Park, Rt. 49, Sturbridge, MA	Y	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
West Thompson Lake Recreation Area, Rt. 12, Thompson, CT	Z	X	X	X		X					
Westville Lake Recreation Area, Rt. 131, Sturbridge, MA	AA	X	X	X	X	X					