

Poquetanuck Cove is a very special place.



Poquetanuck Cove is a two mile long tidal estuary located between the towns of Ledyard and Preston, CT. The CT Department of Environmental Protection experts describe the cove as the largest and highest quality brackish water meadow and cattail marsh on the Thames River.

An important extension of the Long Island Sound ecosystem, the cove is a State of Connecticut designated bird sanctuary and provides shelter for significant flocks of over wintering waterfowl each year. Bald Eagles are a common sight along the cove in the winter months.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service Northeast Coastal Area Study lists this cove as a regionally significant fish and wildlife habitat. It is home to multiple species of plants and animals listed as endangered, threatened or of special concern in Connecticut.

Noteworthy fish species inhabit or migrate through the cove, including alewife, white perch, blueback herring and striped bass. Fishing, blue crabbing, bird watching and paddling are popular recreational uses of Poquetanuck Cove.



A Safety Reminder

Poquetanuck Cove is a tidal body of water and is best paddled at high tide. For an approximation of the tide cycle in the cove, visit www.saltwatertides.com/dynamic.dir/connecticutsites.html and check the Thames River tides at the Yale Boathouse.

Have everyone wear Coast Guard approved life jackets at all times! See the Connecticut Boater's Guide at www.ct.gov/dep for more information.

Let friends or family know where you will put in, take out, and when to expect your return. Take a cell phone in a waterproof bag for emergency calls (though you may not always be able to get a signal).

For more safety tips, check the American Canoe Association website at www.americancano.org.

Poquetanuck Cove Canoe/Kayak Trail



Photo by G. Smith, ECCD



Access Points:

Drawbridge Road off Route 12 bridge
Ledyard, Connecticut

Directions to Drawbridge Road, Ledyard:
From I-395, take the Route 2A East exit 79A to Preston/ Ledyard and continue 0.24 miles. Take Route 2A East and continue 2.50 miles. Turn right onto Route 12 South/ Military Highway. Turn right into boat launch entrance after crossing Poquetanuck Cove bridge.

End of Royal Oaks Drive
Ledyard, CT

Directions to the Royal Oaks Drive, Ledyard:
Take Route 2A onto Cider Mill Road (Avery Hill), and take the second right onto Arrowhead Drive. Go to the end and turn right.

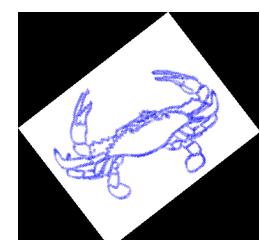
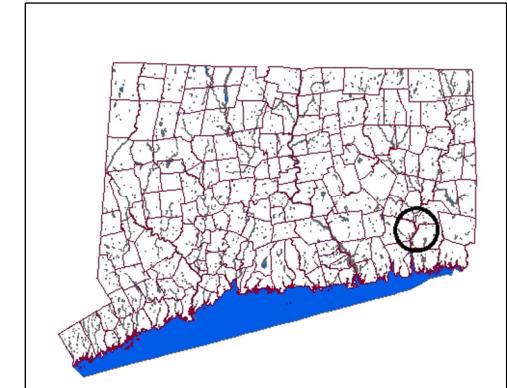


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Points of Interest

- A** Poquetanuck Cove Car Top Boat Launch: 100 foot carry to the put in point. Parking for 4 cars only. Interpretive signage highlights the ecological significance of Poquetanuck Cove. More info at <http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess>
 - B** Providence and Worcester Railroad: This low railroad bridge limits the connection with the mouth of the cove and the Thames River. It also restricts the ability of power-boats to enter the cove.
 - C** Happyland: Before the Hurricane of 1938, this part of Preston was a popular destination for outings and picnicking. It included a dance hall. The current neighborhood honors the past by retaining the name.
 - D** Poquetanuck Cove Coastal Access: This property is owned by the CT DEP. It includes an extensive upland trail system through the sites upland forest. Parking area and access trail begin just west of Route 2A wetland/tidal creek crossing. More info at <http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess>
 - E** Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc. Sedge Bed: ALC acquired the 1.5 acres of tidal estuarine marsh in Preston in 1980 as a donation from the Lionel Wood family of Preston.
 - F** Poquetanuck Brook, aka Indiantown Brook: Where the Brookside Tavern is currently located was once the site of the Lucas Mill. This brook has been relied upon to provide waterpower for an assortment of pre-industrial agricultural processing mills.
 - G** Poquetanuck Village is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district.
 - H** Joe Clark Brook aka Cider Mill Brook: The border of Preston and Ledyard.
 - I** Royal Oaks Drive canoe/kayak launch: Town of Ledyard. Street side parking. Useable at high tide only.
 - J** TNC Poquetanuck Preserve: This 234 acre preserve was donated to The Nature Conservancy in 1988. It contains a 1.5 mile loop trail through a variety of habitats. A significant portion of the shore frontage in Poquetanuck Cove is under the stewardship of TNC due to the generosity of Desire Parker. More info at www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/connecticut/preserves/art5371.html



Beginning in 2008, a three year *Phragmites* control effort was initiated in Poquetanuck Cove. This effort involved the cooperation of over 20 different entities involved with the Thames River Basin Partnership and a variety of funding sources. *Phragmites australis* is an introduced and invasive plant species that had taken root along the fringe areas of the cove's marsh system. The high quality brackish water marshes of Poquetanuck Cove have been documented to contain plant species that are rare in Connecticut. This project would not have been possible without the assistance of numerous volunteers who participated in gathering important data as part of this effort. For more information about Partnering to Protect Poquetanuck Cove, please visit the Thames River Basin Partnership website at www.trbp.org.

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