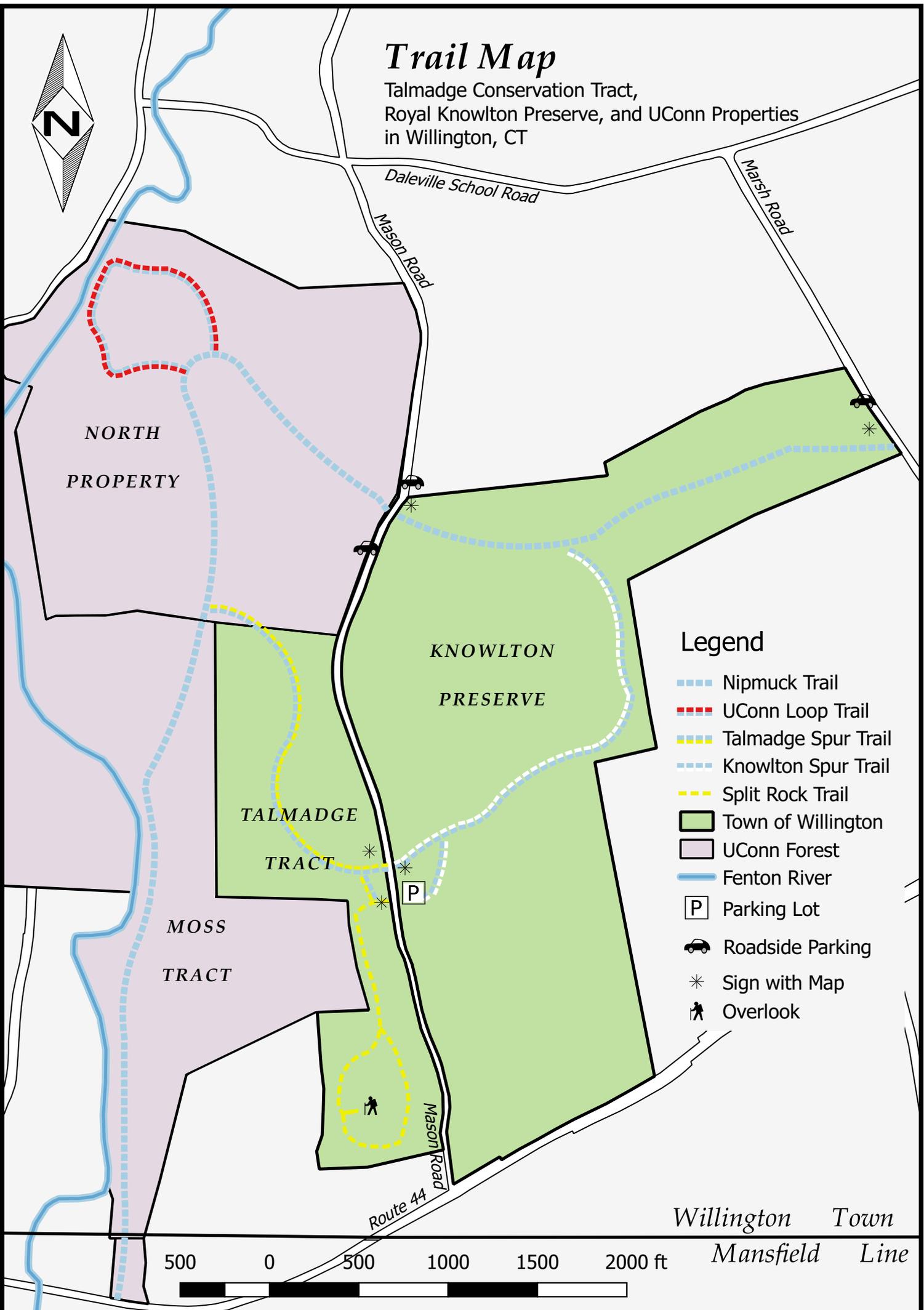


# Trail Map

Talmadge Conservation Tract,  
Royal Knowlton Preserve, and UConn Properties  
in Willington, CT



## Legend

- Nipmuck Trail
- UConn Loop Trail
- Talmadge Spur Trail
- Knowlton Spur Trail
- Split Rock Trail
- Town of Willington
- UConn Forest
- Fenton River
- P Parking Lot
- Roadside Parking
- Sign with Map
- Overlook

Willington Town  
Mansfield Line

500 0 500 1000 1500 2000 ft

## Talmadge Conservation Tract - Royal Knowlton Preserve

### UConn Forest & Nipmuck Trail Connections

The Willington-owned **Talmadge Conservation Tract** and **Royal Knowlton Preserve**, together with **UConn's** 96-acre **North Property**, contain several trails through some highly picturesque rolling terrain in the southeastern part of town. The **Talmadge Tract** contains the **Talmadge Spur Trail**, which traverses a 28-acre parcel purchased in 2006, and the **Split Rock Trail** on a 16-acre parcel added in 2022. The 138-acre **Royal Knowlton Preserve** was purchased in 2011 and contains the **Knowlton Spur Trail** and a portion of the **Nipmuck Trail**. The **North Property** contains the **Nipmuck and UConn Loop Trails**. These parcels were all acquired with funding assistance from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program. Joshua's Trust and Connecticut Forest and Park Association also contributed to the Knowlton Preserve purchase. These properties contain 279 acres of permanently protected land. The **Nipmuck Trail** also runs through **UConn's Moss Tract**, protected by 50-year restrictive conservation covenants since 2010 and containing 323 acres extending to the west across the Fenton River (not all shown on map on reverse), for a total of 602 acres of contiguous conserved open space.

To access the properties and their trails, park in the gravel parking lot on the east side of Mason Road, located about 0.3 miles north of its intersection with Route 44 and 0.8 miles south of its intersection with Daleville School Road. The **Split Rock Trail** and the **Talmadge Spur Trail** begin directly across Mason Road from the parking lot. The **Knowlton Spur Trail** begins at the kiosk, near the upper right hand corner of the parking lot.

The **Split Rock Trail** (yellow blazed) heads south through mixed forest then passes through a stone wall where it forks left and right to form a loop trail. Heading right, the trail traverses an area with several large stone outcrops, some with split rocks! From there the trail descends to a wide ravine and then ascends the side of a hill, where hikers can opt to turn left onto a short trail to the top of an outcrop that includes an overlook of the forest below. Return by the same short trail to rejoin the main trail as it continues around the hill to an old woods road which takes a few turns before it returns to the original fork by the stone wall. Take the trail back to the parking lot for total distance of 1 mile.

The **Talmadge Spur Trail** (yellow-blue blazed) descends through open hardwood forest approximately 0.5 miles to a junction with the blue-blazed **Nipmuck Trail** on UConn property. Going north (right), the Nipmuck Trail passes through a mixed forest of large oaks and hemlocks and in 0.2 miles comes to the red-blue blazed **UConn Loop Trail** to the left. You can continue to the right on the Nipmuck Trail to Mason Road (0.3 miles) or turn left on the highly recommended 0.6-mile UConn Loop Trail which passes through a forest of spectacularly large hemlock trees and along the edge of a picturesque ravine above the Fenton River - the same Fenton River that flows through the Town's Fenton-Ruby Park, 4 miles to the north.

On returning to the Nipmuck Trail, go right (south) on the Nipmuck to retrace your path to the Talmadge Spur Trail back to the trailhead on Mason Road where you started. (Keep a lookout for the yellow-blue blazed Talmadge Spur Trail sign set back on your left.) You may notice many different features as you walk the trail in the opposite direction. Or take a left on the Nipmuck to Mason Road as above. At Mason Road you have two options to return to your starting point: (1) A 0.4-mile walk south on Mason Road will return you to the parking lot; or (2) Continue across Mason Road on the blue-blazed Nipmuck Trail where you will see a large green sign for the Royal Knowlton Preserve. In 0.2 miles, take the **Knowlton Spur Trail** (blue-white blazed) which branches off to the right (south) through fairly level, open, hardwood forest with an interesting glacial erratic and in 0.5 miles returns you to the parking lot. The Talmadge Spur to Nipmuck Trail to Knowlton Spur circuit (not including the 0.6 mile UConn Loop) is about 2.2 miles.

# Daniel W. and Eleanor L. Talmadge Conservation Tract

## Town of Willington



**Preserving Open Space  
and Watershed Land for  
Public Use and Enjoyment**



**Funding Assistance Provided by  
State of Connecticut Department  
of Energy and Environmental Protection  
Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program  
2021**

**SPLIT ROCK TRAIL**

← 1.0 mi

0.5 mi →

**TALMADGE SPUR TRAIL**



**MAPS**

# Royal Knowlton Preserve

## Town of Willington

Funding Assistance Provided by

State of Connecticut

Department of Environmental Protection

Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program



Additional funding provided by  
**Connecticut Forest & Park Association**



and Joshua's Trust

