



Much appreciation is extended to the Public Works Departments of these four Towns who enthusiastically improved the Trail, to the countless volunteers who supported and assisted this project, to the National Recreational Trail Program for the funding of materials, and to the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection for making available this Linear State Park and Greenway for the use of the public.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

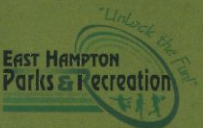
CT DEP – www.ct.gov/dep

East Hampton Parks & Recreation – (860) 267-6020

Colchester Parks & Recreation – (860) 537-7297

Hebron Parks & Recreation – (860) 228-5971 x129

Lebanon Town Hall – (860) 642-6100



Photos by Stan Malcolm: www.performance-vision.com/airline

7/07

The Air Line Trail

A Connecticut Greenway, State Linear Park and Multipurpose Trail for non-motorized users

Guide & Map for the Towns
of East Hampton, Colchester,
Hebron and Lebanon

East Hampton

1) BELL TOWN VILLAGE CENTER & LAKE POCOTOPAUG

East Hampton is called "Bell Town" as it was the center of the bell making industry for the country. Taking a detour off the Trail at Cranberry Meadow onto Smith St. and traveling west leads to the Bell Town Village Center, a mecca for antique shoppers. Traveling north leads to the business center of East Hampton and Lake Pocotopaug. Caution is advised on busy roads.

2) CRANBERRY BOG

This pond offers benches for resting; the sights of wildflowers and sounds of bullfrogs in the summer; and picturesque ice skating and hockey games in the winter. Cranberry Meadow and Bog was once a natural cranberry producing bog. During the 1920's and 30's, the cranberries were harvested, transported to grocers, and bartered for groceries.

3) RAPALLO VIADUCT

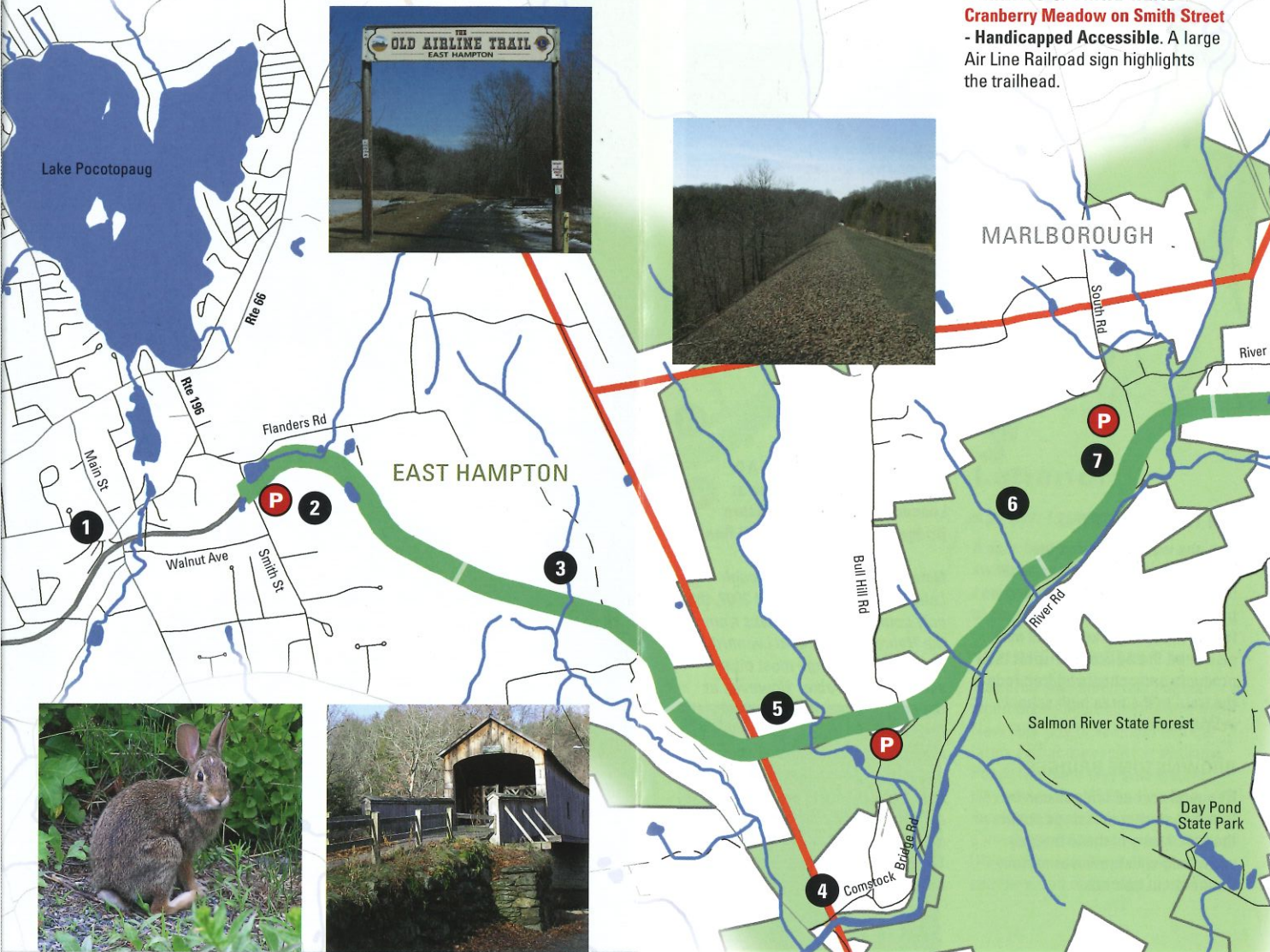
Built in 1873 (as was its sister, the Lyman Viaduct, 1-1/2 miles east in Colchester), the Rapallo bears the name of a railroad director and was built for two train tracks. Originally a 1,380 ft. long bridge 60 ft. high above Flat Brook, the increasing weight of freight trains necessitated filling underneath it in 1913. The spectacular views of the marsh to the north and other natural surroundings make this a rare treat.

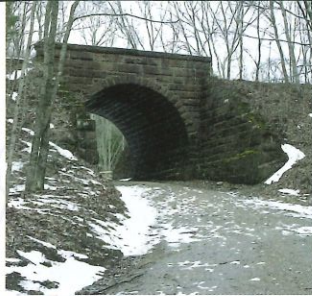
4) COMSTOCK BRIDGE

The Comstock Bridge was built in 1791 and rebuilt in 1860. It is one of only three remaining covered bridges in Connecticut. The Comstock Bridge links East Hampton and Colchester and is approximately 1-1/4 miles south of the intersection of Colchester's Bull Hill Road and the Air Line Trail. The bridge is open to pedestrian traffic and has a picnic area nearby.

PARKING & TRAIL HEAD

Cranberry Meadow on Smith Street
- Handicapped Accessible. A large Air Line Railroad sign highlights the trailhead.





Colchester

5) LYMAN VIADUCT

Towering 137 feet high over Dickinson's Creek, this is one of the biggest thrills of the Trail. Built in 1873 and named after David Lyman, the Air Line's first president, the Lyman was once a 1,108 foot long bridge. The increasing weight of freight trains necessitated filling the bridge to the top with gravel in 1912-13 (a culvert allows Dickinson's Creek to flow through).

6) SALMON RIVER STATE FOREST

This 6,115 acre forest offers miles of hiking, provides several picnic areas, and borders Day Pond State Park. Salmon River is a key river in the D.E.P.'s Atlantic Salmon restoration project, and provides water recreation activities such as fishing and spring kayaking, and has a handicap accessible fly fishing area.

7) RIVER ROAD BRIDGE

This 22 foot long brownstone arch bridge was built in 1887 and carried trains 18' above the unpaved section of River Road, which follows the beautiful Salmon River.

8) COLCHESTER STATION, TOWN CENTER & HISTORIC DISTRICT

At Colchester Railroad's terminus lie the historic station and freight depot that once served passengers and the Hayward Rubber Complex (owned by Nathaniel Hayward, inventor of vulcanized rubber). Turning right (south) onto Lebanon Avenue leads to the Town Center, lovely Town Green, and a wide sampling of historic architecture, recognized in the National Register of Historic Places.

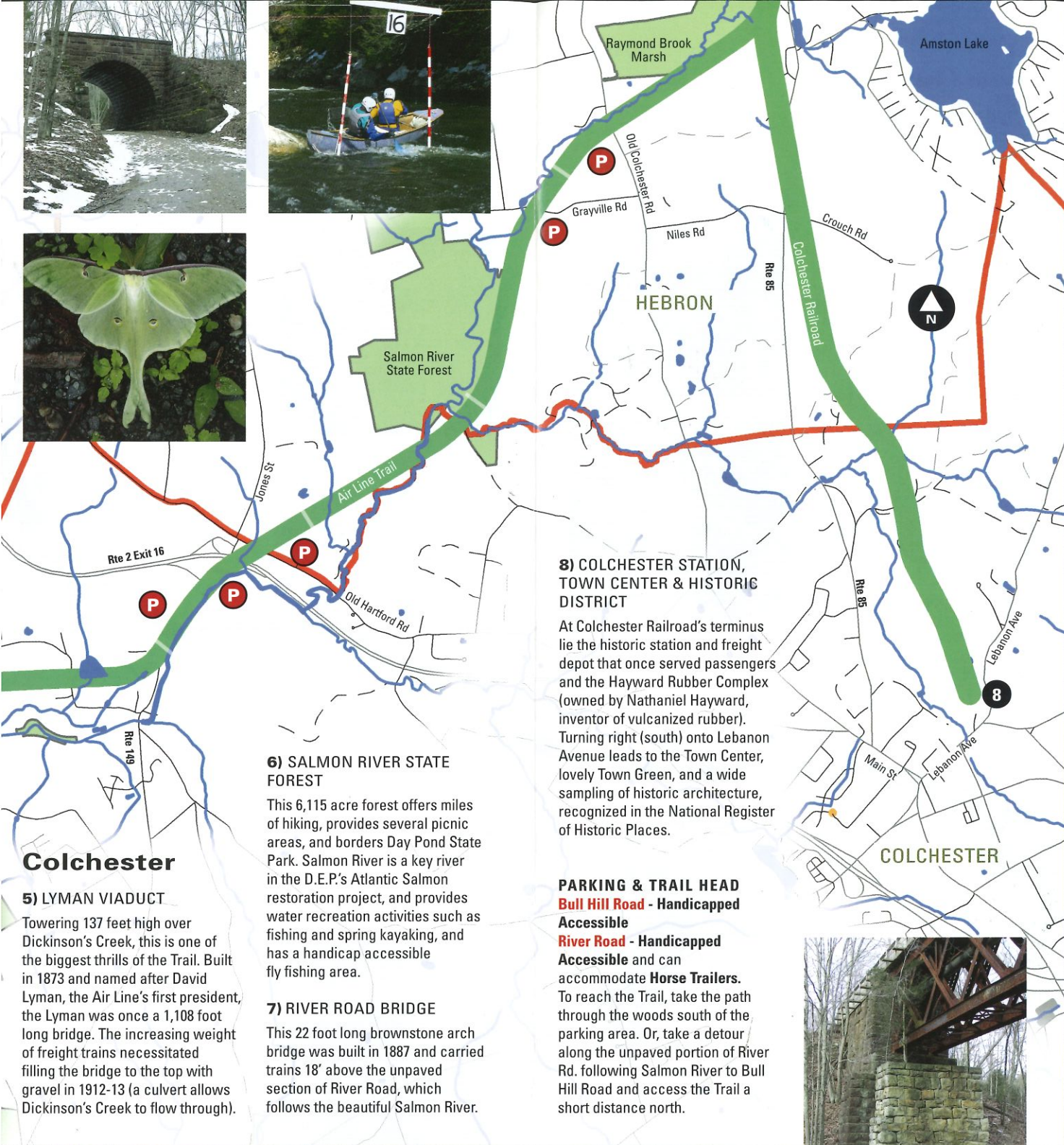
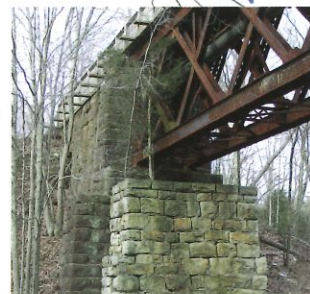
PARKING & TRAIL HEAD

Bull Hill Road - Handicapped Accessible

River Road - Handicapped

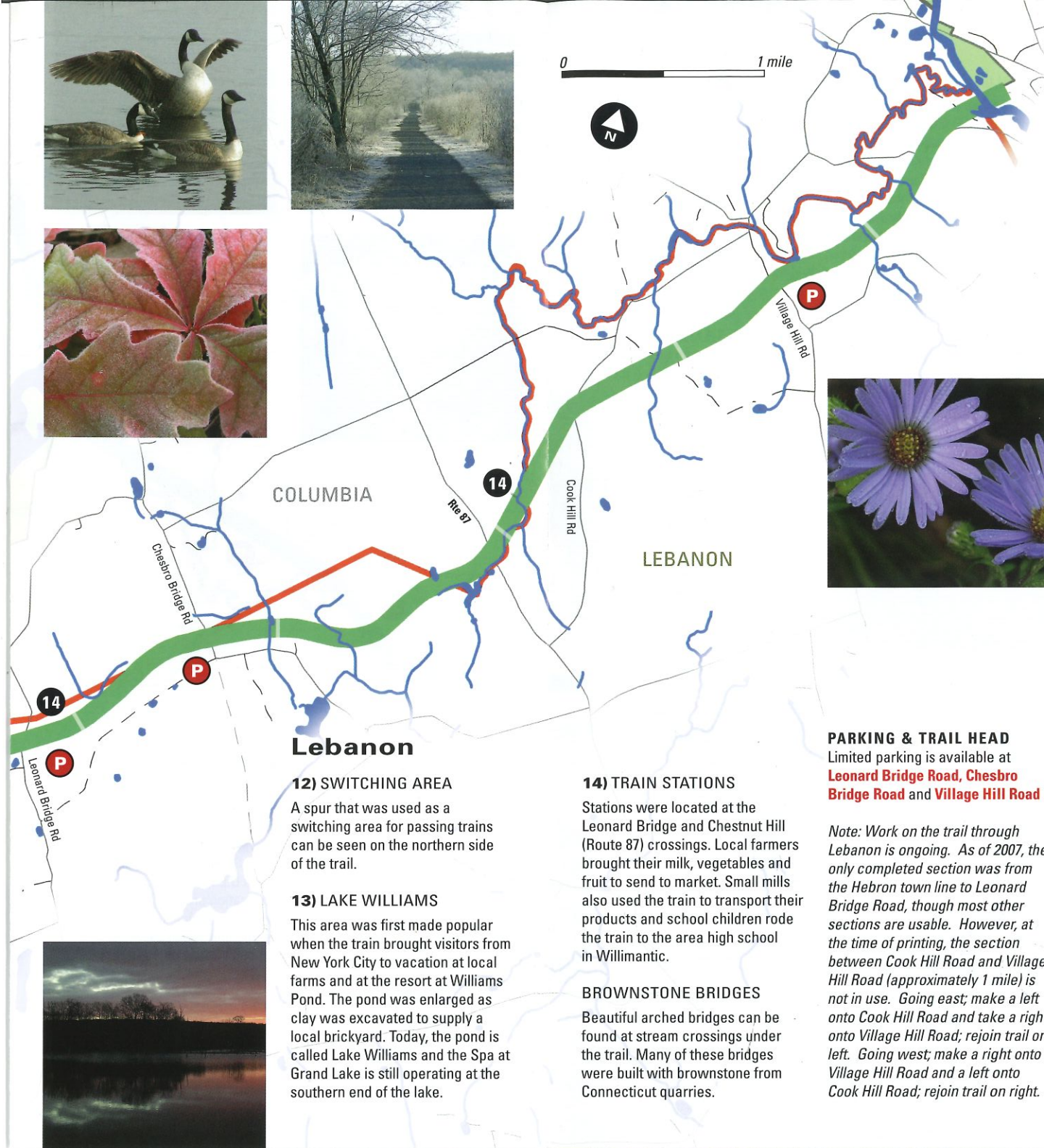
Accessible and can accommodate **Horse Trailers**.

To reach the Trail, take the path through the woods south of the parking area. Or, take a detour along the unpaved portion of River Rd. following Salmon River to Bull Hill Road and access the Trail a short distance north.





0 1 mile



COLUMBIA

LEBANON

Lebanon

12) SWITCHING AREA

A spur that was used as a switching area for passing trains can be seen on the northern side of the trail.

13) LAKE WILLIAMS

This area was first made popular when the train brought visitors from New York City to vacation at local farms and at the resort at Williams Pond. The pond was enlarged as clay was excavated to supply a local brickyard. Today, the pond is called Lake Williams and the Spa at Grand Lake is still operating at the southern end of the lake.



14) TRAIN STATIONS

Stations were located at the Leonard Bridge and Chestnut Hill (Route 87) crossings. Local farmers brought their milk, vegetables and fruit to send to market. Small mills also used the train to transport their products and school children rode the train to the area high school in Willimantic.

BROWNSTONE BRIDGES

Beautiful arched bridges can be found at stream crossings under the trail. Many of these bridges were built with brownstone from Connecticut quarries.

PARKING & TRAIL HEAD

Limited parking is available at **Leonard Bridge Road, Chesbro Bridge Road** and **Village Hill Road**

Note: Work on the trail through Lebanon is ongoing. As of 2007, the only completed section was from the Hebron town line to Leonard Bridge Road, though most other sections are usable. However, at the time of printing, the section between Cook Hill Road and Village Hill Road (approximately 1 mile) is not in use. Going east; make a left onto Cook Hill Road and take a right onto Village Hill Road; rejoin trail on left. Going west; make a right onto Village Hill Road and a left onto Cook Hill Road; rejoin trail on right.