



Area 6 PETERSON GORGE



Snake Lake Wetlands in Peterson Gorge.

Size: 16 acres

ACCESS/PARKING: Virginia Court—trail starts at fire hydrant in front of house #41; Ridgebury School—trail enters the woods at the top of the field above the school.
[GPS Address: 96 Virginia Court]

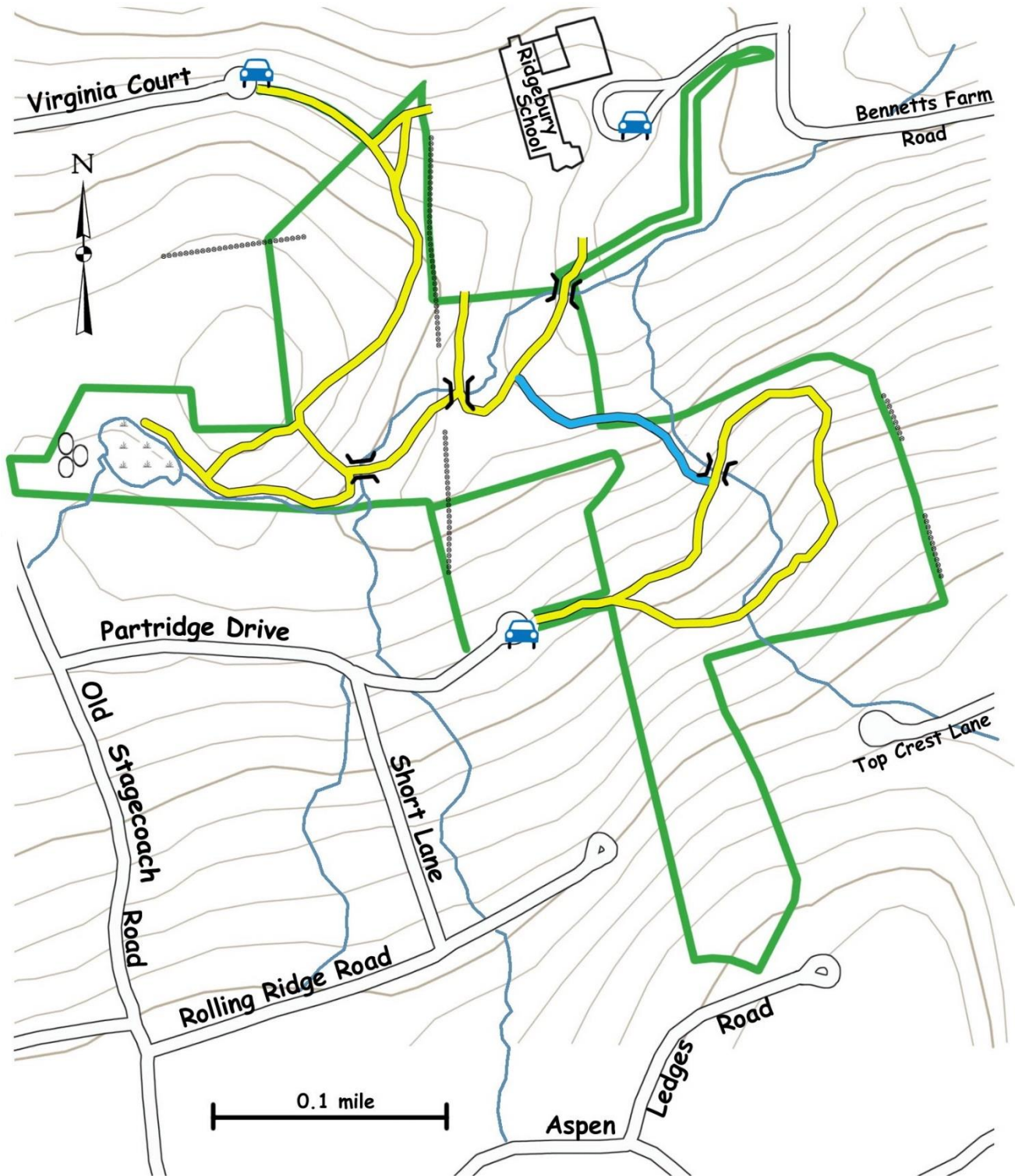
DIFFICULTY: Fairly easy. Approximately 30 minutes. May be combined with Ridgebury Slope via the blue trail.

FEATURES: This loop trail runs along a ridge and stream with several bridge crossings and is ideal for family exploration. The sandy ridge offers an unusually varied stand of evergreens. Wildflowers, including trout lily and jack-in-the-pulpit, are abundant in spring, and there are large areas of horsetail and ferns. The Snake Lake wetland is home for frogs, salamanders, and turtles. The adjacent Ridgebury School property has fields and playgrounds. (See also Ridgebury Slope – Area 7. These trails are connected. Between them they have streams, wetlands, and forested areas.)

HISTORY: Peterson Gorge was purchased in 1967 by The Nature Conservancy from a developer for \$28,500. The Ridgefield Conservation Commission paid \$7,800 initially to the Conservancy and then raised the remainder of the total over the next three years. Gifts from the Richardson estate and Lewis Fund helped make this acquisition possible.



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Legend

- Open Space Boundary
- Trails

- Parking
- Bridges

- Stonewalls
- Wetlands



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