



**Town of Greenwich**  
**Department of Parks & Recreation - Facilities**  
**Town Hall – 101 Field Point Road - Greenwich, CT 06836-2540**  
**Phone: (203) 622-7814 - Fax: (203) 622-6494**

## **LADDINS ROCK**

**Location:** North side of Highmeadow Rd. off of Laddin's Rock Rd.

**Directions from**

**Central Greenwich:** U.S. 1 toward Stamford, Stay on U.S. 1 until you pass Hyatt Hotel on right, at traffic light make a right onto Laddins rock Rd. turn left on High Meadow Rd. Laddins rock is on High Meadow Rd.

**Size:** 18 acres

**Hr. of Operation:** Dawn to Dusk

**Parking:** Parking is available along road beyond homes

### **FACILITIES**

1 split timber fence (75yards long, 2 ½ ' high) at entrance

1 sign denoting name of "Laddins Rock" at entrance (2yrds long, 3' high)

1 wooden bridge with rusted metal rails 30'l. x 3'h. functional but rusty, over 10' wide stream

The Sanctuary is located on the north side of Highmeadow Rd. in old Greenwich. The unique character of Laddin's Rock became legendary as far back as the earliest settlers.

This green pocket of wilderness features a great granite dome with a sheer drop of 60' on one side. The balance of the property is presently a natural woodland with 2 small water courses flowing between Laddin's rock and a wooded hillside.

### **Laddins Rock Sanctuary (18 acres)**

The Sanctuary is located on the north side of Highmeadow Road in Old Greenwich. From the Post Road, proceed south on Laddins Rock Road. Take the first left onto Midbrook Lane and bear left onto Highmeadow Road. Parking is available along the side of the road beyond the homes.

The unique character of Laddins Rock became legendary as far back as the days of the earliest settlers. Today it represents a new addition to the Old Greenwich "greenbelt" that runs from I-95 to Long Island Sound along the Stamford border. In addition to the scenic vistas atop Laddins Rock looking south., the area provides a link for walking and hiking to and from Binney Park (22 acres) and the Nature Trails (10 acres) via an easement along Brownhouse Road. Acquired by the Town in 1989, this property represents the most recent success in the Town's ongoing efforts to preserve open space.

This pocket of wilderness features a great granite dome with a sheer 60-foot drop on one side. The balance of the property is presently a natural woodland with two small water courses flowing between Laddins Rock and a wooded hillside. The Sanctuary abounds in Sweet Gum trees, Majestic Oaks, Beech, and in wet areas, skunk cabbage. Among the more common plants can be found Solomon's seal, hepatica, trout lily and club moss. Surrounded by housing development, the acreage serves as a haven for migratory birds in May and September. Blackcapped Chickadees, Downy Woodpeckers and common Flockers also make their homes here. During the winter months, one might see crows doing battle with a Great Horned Owl who comes to visit.

## Legend

Between 1643 and 1644 warfare broke out among local Indian Tribes and the white settlers. In one incident, according to *Legendary Connecticut* by David Philips, “a rough old Dutchman” by the name of Cornelius Labden (later Anglicized to Laddin) whose wife and daughter had been scalped by an Indian raiding party, escaped by galloping off toward the high, sheer precipice now known as Laddins Rock. With the Indians in hot pursuit, he “urged his horse left where he could survive a daring leap by landing on the soft, swampy ground.” The Indians, except for one, were less fortunate and plunged over the edge onto a sharp ledge and boulders. The one surviving warrior returned to his tribe to tell the story of the crazy white man who jumped off the cliff. According to the myth, although Laddin survived the leap, many bones were broken and his mind was permanently affected by the experience.

***Richard Vincent***