

The Godard Family of Granby, Connecticut

The Godard name has been an illustrious one in Granby for over 300 years. Whether it is spelled Godard, Gozzard or Gozard, it is all the same family. The Godard name will continue to be remembered in Granby owing to the generous donation of Godard land to the Granby Land Trust.

Alice Hills Godard, widow of Paul Beach Godard, of West Hartford gave 108 acres on Donahue Road to the Land Trust in 1997. She also created an endowment to assure construction of trails, their maintenance, an entrance sign and other needs. A five acre parcel located in the middle of the Donahue Road frontage has now been donated by Mrs. Godard's daughter, Barbara Godard.

Barbara Godard and her sister, Sali Godard Riege, are direct descendants (11th generation) of Daniel Gozzard who came from England to Hartford, Connecticut in 1646. Daniel's son, Nicholas Gozzard, was granted land in the Salmon Brook section (now Granby) of Simsbury in 1683. His probate inventory in 1692 mentions a homestead in what is now Granby center. Eventually the Godards came to North Granby and purchased the land around Cragg Mill (Godard Road and Silver Street area) formerly owned by the Cossitts. A grist mill was built at the Craggs; later cider and saw mills were added.

As in all small and somewhat isolated communities, the early families intermarried. The Godards married Gillets, Holcombs, Hayes, Dibbles, Deweys and other local families, until land ownership, industries and family relationships were thoroughly entwined.

By 1858, Harvy Godard was operating the mills at the Craggs. Godard land now extended on both sides of Granville Road and included land on Donahue Road. Harvy Godard helped organize the Grange in Granby and was the master from 1875 to 1893, as well as serving as the first master of the State Grange for four years.

Harvy Godard married Sabra Beach and they raised six children in their home on the Granville Road. Their third child, George Seymour Godard,

born 17 June 1865, was well-known and respected in both Granby and throughout Connecticut.

George S. Godard attended Wilbraham Academy in Massachusetts and then entered Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. His education there was funded by the sale of timber from the Godard Preserve. He postponed his senior year to supervise the building and organization of the Cossitt Library in North Granby. It was a measure of his ability and a tribute to his talent, that a 24 year-old student was entrusted with almost total responsibility for the Library.

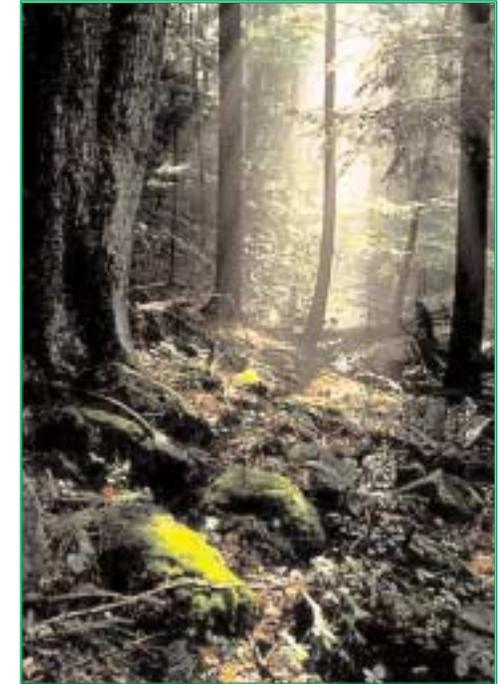
Godard completed his education at Wesleyan; in 1895 he received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Yale. At age 35 he became the third State Librarian of Connecticut. During his tenure, a new State Library was constructed and every item was available to the public.

George S. Godard married Kate Estelle Dewey in 1897 and three children were born to them: George Dewey Godard in 1899, Paul Beach Godard in 1901, and Mary Katherine Godard in 1903.

Born in Hartford on February 17, 1901, Paul Beach Godard lived in this area all his life. He followed in his father's footsteps to Wilbraham Academy and Wesleyan University. In 1925 he married Alice Litchfield Hills. They had two daughters, Sali Godard Riege and Barbara Godard.

Mr. Godard's entire career was in real estate as the highly respected president of his own firm. He was a leader in local, state, and national real estate boards, served two terms as a West Hartford town Councilman and was President of the Governmental Research Institute. He was also Governor of the Order of Founders and Patriots, member of the Sons of the American Revolution and of the Society of Colonial Wars. Upon his retirement, his principal interest was in the care and the future of the Godard properties in North Granby - until his death in 1968. It is to his memory that the Godard Preserve is dedicated.

The Godard roots are deep in Granby soil and Granby history. It is the generosity of people like the Godards that insures the protection and preservation of open space in our town by their donations to the Granby Land Trust.



The Godard Preserve a Granby Land Trust Property

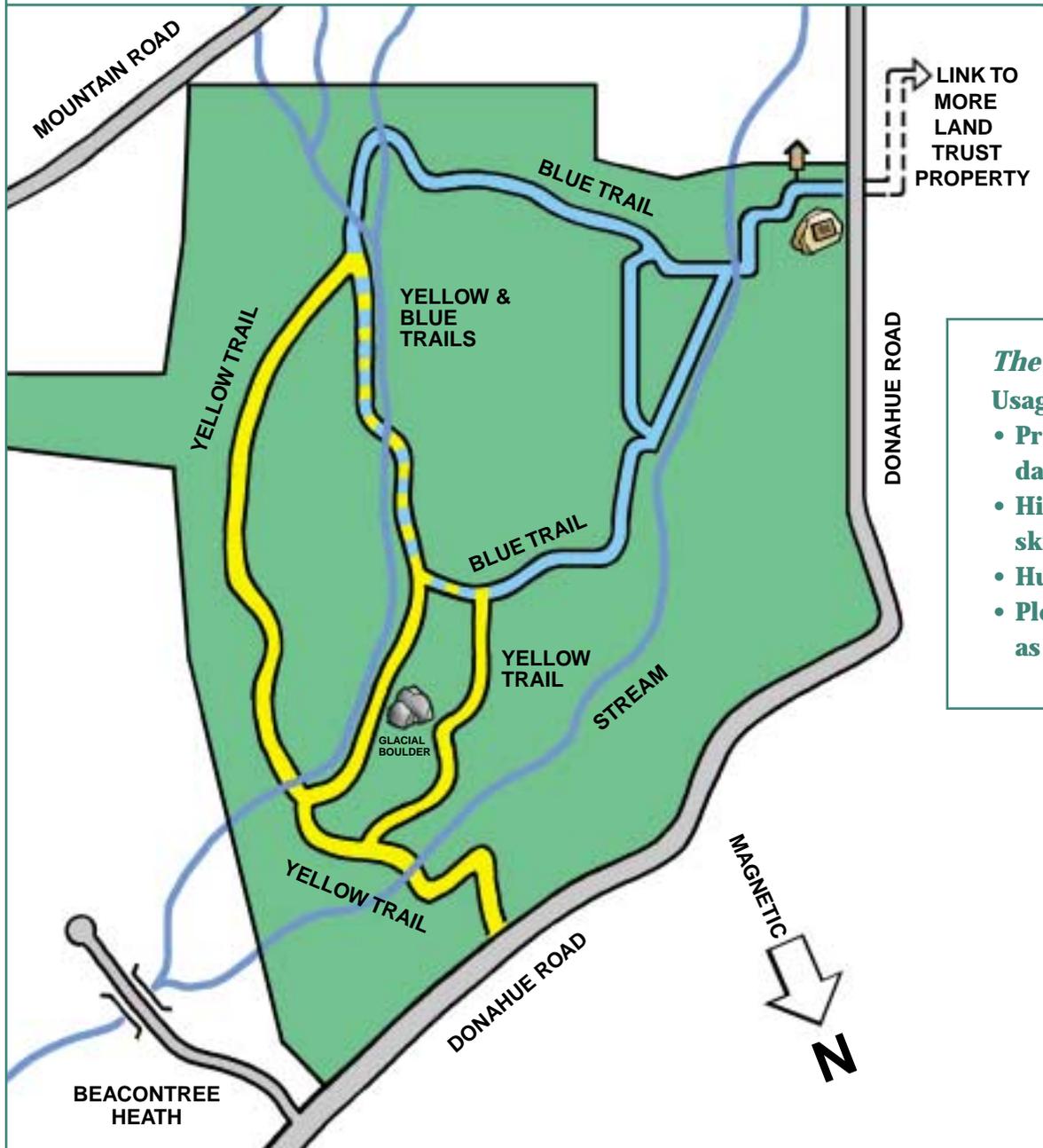
Founded in 1970, the Granby Land Trust seeks to preserve Granby's natural heritage by protecting Granby's scenic vistas, open space corridors, ecologically sensitive areas and agricultural land. The Land Trust accomplishes this mission through land acquisition, conservation easements and partnerships with fellow organizations that seek to protect open space for our community's use.

The Granby Land Trust works hard to be worthy stewards of the land that has been entrusted to its care.

To become a member or learn more, visit www.GranbyLandTrust.org

The Godard Preserve

A Granby Land Trust Property



The Godard Preserve Usage guidelines:

- Property open from dawn to dusk
- Hiking and x-country skiing are encouraged
- Hunting prohibited
- Please leave property as you found it

The Godard Preserve

The trail system is made up of two loops. The Blue trail starts in the southwest corner and involves two beautiful stream walks as well as plenty of reasonably flat woodland walking. The Yellow loop starts in the northeast corner and is the shorter loop with one long stream side walk passing by a large glacial boulder. This loop does involve a longer stretch of uphill (and downhill) walking. Enjoy the loops separately or connect them in your own way for longer walks.

The Granby Land Trust is grateful to the Godard Family for their generous donation of this property for the public to enjoy as the Godard Family has since colonial days.