



### AYERS PRESERVE

The 6-acre Ayers Preserve is accessed from Devil's Hopyard Road via a narrow finger of the property 0.25 mi. south of Dolbia Hill Road, and 0.75 mi. north of Rte. 82. A new trail is currently being established.

About 300 feet of the Ayers preserve borders Eight Mile River. (and directly across from the Ayers Preserve is The Nature Conservancy easement to Burnham Brook Preserve.) Much of the land bordering the river is floodplain, and due to scarring of the land by floods, there is little groundcover vegetation near the river. Much of the land was once used as a Christmas tree farm, but now the spruce trees are large, lacking sun in the understory, and naked limbs intertwine below a lush green canopy of evergreen. The land is dotted with red maples, grape vines and bittersweet vines, and the ground is covered by large colonies of royal, cinnamon and New York ferns. Cultivated species of trees and shrubs border the property.