The 79-acre Pope Preserve was acquired by the Salisbury Association Land Trust in 2019. The Pope family generously sold the land at an attractive price so that the land would be preserved. The purchase was financed through grants from the State of Connecticut Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition program, Anne and Rollin Bates Foundation, Appalachian Trail Conservancy’s Wild East Program, and the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation. A much-appreciated bridge loan was provided by the Norcross Wildlife Foundation.

The preserve is situated on the western reach of Wetauwanchu Mountain (elevation 1250’), and is bordered on three sides by the Appalachian Trail corridor, providing a valuable buffer of protected land along the trail. Forest, field, swamp, stream and marshland environments are all present. A 1.3 mile loop trail follows an old wood road to the top of Bittersweet Hill, which affords an exceptional view of Bunker Hill to the west. The trail then skirts around the upper edge of a 4.5 acre field before descending through a mixed coniferous-deciduous forest to return to the wood road.

The entrance to the preserve is located on the east side of Canaan Road (Route 44), approximately 0.2 miles north of Cobble Road. Parking is along the shoulder of the road adjacent to the Appalachian Trail head.