

Welcome to Woodcock Nature Center!

Founded by former Ridgefield First Selectman J. Mortimer Woodcock in 1972, Woodcock Nature Center has grown to provide educational programming for over 4,000 learners of all ages each year. Our programming includes school field trips, summer camps, and enrichment programs, all of which support our educational efforts by immersing the community in direct experiences with nature. We partner with local organizations to present lectures, workshops, and films, and guided hikes while child and caregiver classes and on-site animal encounters provide a means for the public to engage with and learn from our natural world.

Woodcock's 152 acres, originally inhabited by the Siwanog and Ramapo tribes, and today owned by the state of Connecticut, straddles both Wilton and Ridgefield. The preserve includes historic stone walls and stands of old maple, beech, oak and hickory trees, a pond, wetlands, vernal pools, and nearly four miles of hiking trails which remain a resource for thousands of hikers, birders, and outdoor enthusiasts. Woodcock's trails, natural playground, nature center, and outdoor aviaries (where we care for ambassador animals which includes 3 non-releasable birds of prey and nearly 20 reptiles and amphibians) are publicly accessible year-round with **no admission fee**.

Woodcock Nature Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations made in support of our work are tax-deductible.

Please visit:
woodcocknaturecenter.org



Woodcock does not receive any funds from local towns or the state of Connecticut and fundraises privately for every dollar necessary to sustain its programs and facilities—in fact, 50% of our revenues are from these donations along with special events income. We depend on the generosity of private foundations, corporations, and individuals to remain a resource to our community.

Woodcock acknowledges the indigenous tribes of the Siwanog and Ramapo, who were the first stewards of the land in Wilton and Ridgefield which we strive to continue to learn from, protect, and respect.

The Woodcock Nature Center property is protected and owned by the State of Connecticut and leased through the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Additional thanks goes to our sponsors, Outdoor Sports Center, Georgetown Veterinary Hospital, and ASML.



Georgetown
Veterinary
Hospital

ASML



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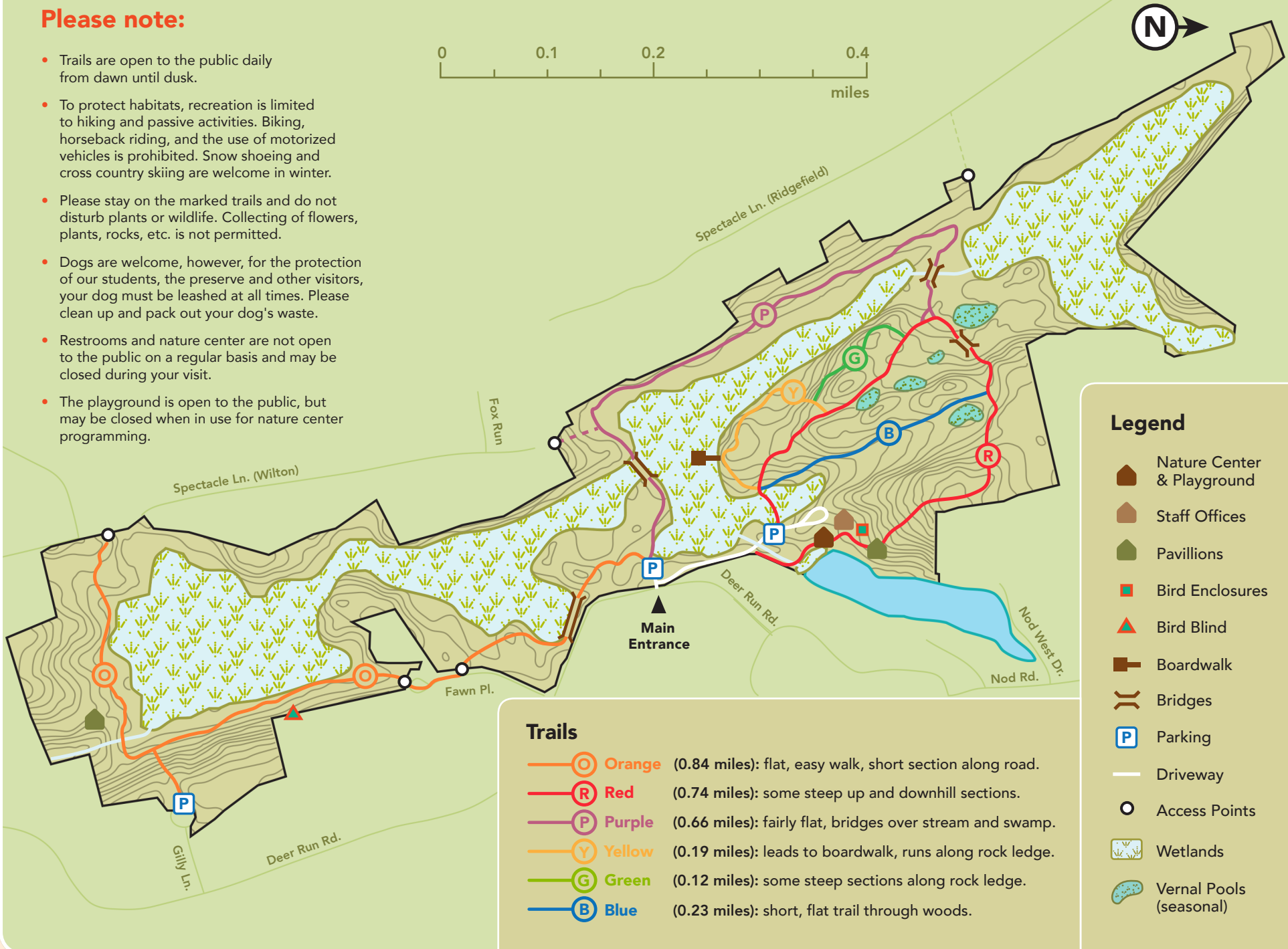
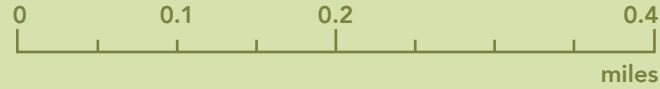
Trail Map



Scan QR code to donate and support your nature center!

Please note:

- Trails are open to the public daily from dawn until dusk.
- To protect habitats, recreation is limited to hiking and passive activities. Biking, horseback riding, and the use of motorized vehicles is prohibited. Snow shoeing and cross country skiing are welcome in winter.
- Please stay on the marked trails and do not disturb plants or wildlife. Collecting of flowers, plants, rocks, etc. is not permitted.
- Dogs are welcome, however, for the protection of our students, the preserve and other visitors, your dog must be leashed at all times. Please clean up and pack out your dog's waste.
- Restrooms and nature center are not open to the public on a regular basis and may be closed during your visit.
- The playground is open to the public, but may be closed when in use for nature center programming.



Legend

- Nature Center & Playground
- Staff Offices
- Pavillions
- Bird Enclosures
- Bird Blind
- Boardwalk
- Bridges
- Parking
- Driveway
- Access Points
- Wetlands
- Vernal Pools (seasonal)

Trails

- Orange** (0.84 miles): flat, easy walk, short section along road.
- Red** (0.74 miles): some steep up and downhill sections.
- Purple** (0.66 miles): fairly flat, bridges over stream and swamp.
- Yellow** (0.19 miles): leads to boardwalk, runs along rock ledge.
- Green** (0.12 miles): some steep sections along rock ledge.
- Blue** (0.23 miles): short, flat trail through woods.