

Bittersweet Loop Easy 0.4-mile loop

◆ Orange blazes

Access Bittersweet Loop from either Trail Head.

The property around this trail was once open pasture, but today, such invasive species as bittersweet, honeysuckle and multiflora rose have encroached. When Hill-Stead was an active farm, the small stone Pump House in the field's north-west corner directed water to domestic and service buildings.

Woodland Trail Easy one-mile loop

◆ White blazes

Access Woodland Trail from either Trail Head.

Much of this trail follows an old bridle path, once used for horse rides and a sheep run; notice the old posts and barbed wire. Oak, maple, hemlock and ash provide shade, and native Christmas ferns, maple saplings and invasive barberry cover the forest floor. The loose stones you see are similar to those used to build the miles of stonewalls found on the property. In the northeast corner of the trail, look for vestiges of an old road. Notice the trap rock ridge above, molded by volcanic activity millions of years ago. Follow the trail out into meadows and through the former apple orchards. A meadow Overlook affords a commanding view of the old dairy farm and Farmington Valley beyond.

Metacomet Trail

The Metacomet Trail follows the north-south ridge on the eastern edge of museum property. For information, contact Connecticut Forest and Park Association, 16 Meriden Road, Rockfall, CT 06481 / 860.346. TREE / www.ctwoodlands.org

Pond Loop Easy 0.2-mile loop

◆ Blue blazes

Access Pond Loop from the road north of the Parking Lot.

The pond that was created for Alfred Pope as a water hazard for his six-hole golf grounds also served to supply water for fire suppression and provide block ice for refrigeration. Its reflective surface is a character-defining feature between the house and dairy farm on the opposite hill. Today, the pond is a habitat for ducks, geese, heron, frogs, fish and muskrats. During migration, the Pond Loop provides vantage points for spotting warblers and sparrows.

Swamp Oak Trail Easy 0.2 miles

◆ Yellow blazes

Access from Cedar Way or Woodland Trail. Maintained seasonally.

This trail traverses the interior of the property and crosses the Pope Brook. During rainy seasons the trail is wet. Watch for frogs. Notice several large white swamp oaks, black willow and areas of cattails, pampas grass and invasive purple loosestrife.

Cedar Way Easy 0.4 miles

◆ Green blazes

Access from Bittersweet Loop or Woodland Trail. Maintained seasonally.

Like the Swamp Oak Trail, parts of this trail take you through the property's wetlands. Watch for star-nosed moles, warblers and deer.

Return often to Hill-Stead!

Participate in outdoor activities—Hawk Watch, Hay Day, Wreath Ramble, guided bird walks and nature activities for all ages. Volunteer for trail maintenance or join the museum's lively Garden Gang. Escape with family and friends to this enchanting place.

Thank you!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dauphin Graphic Design
East-West Builders, LLC
Institute of Museum and Library Services
The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust
The State of Connecticut, Department
of Economic and Community Development

Hill-Stead MUSEUM Trail Guide

You're invited to explore the museum's trails, part of a 152-acre historic landscape. Come to walk, watch for birds, identify trees or simply absorb nature's sights and sounds. You may wish to complement your outdoor experience with a guided tour of the 1901 Pope Riddle house.

Hill-Stead's original pathway system was used for both farming and recreation. From 1901 through 1946, Hill-Stead encompassed 250 acres and included the Pope Riddle house with outbuildings, gardens and an experimental dairy farm.

Alfred A. Pope and his wife Ada assembled the estate by purchasing small farms and tracts of open land. Drawing on the English Landscape movement and Colonial Revival style for inspiration, the Popes' daughter, Theodate Pope Riddle, designed Hill-Stead with an eye to utility, horticultural variety and ornament.

Today, Hill-Stead maintains its trails and facilities with the support of hundreds of individuals. Please make a charitable donation and help preserve the museum's indoor and outdoor treasures.

Hill-Stead Museum
35 Mountain Road • Farmington, CT 06032
860.677.4787 • www.hillstead.org

Walking Trail Guidelines

- Open daily 7:30 am to 5:30 pm.
- Use caution: enjoy this property at your own risk.
- Leash your dog and poop-scoop.
- Keep away from poison ivy.
- Check clothing and exposed skin for ticks.
- No trail bikes or motorized vehicles.
- No camping, smoking, fires or alcohol.
- Take only photographs, leave only footprints.

LOOK FOR ANIMALS

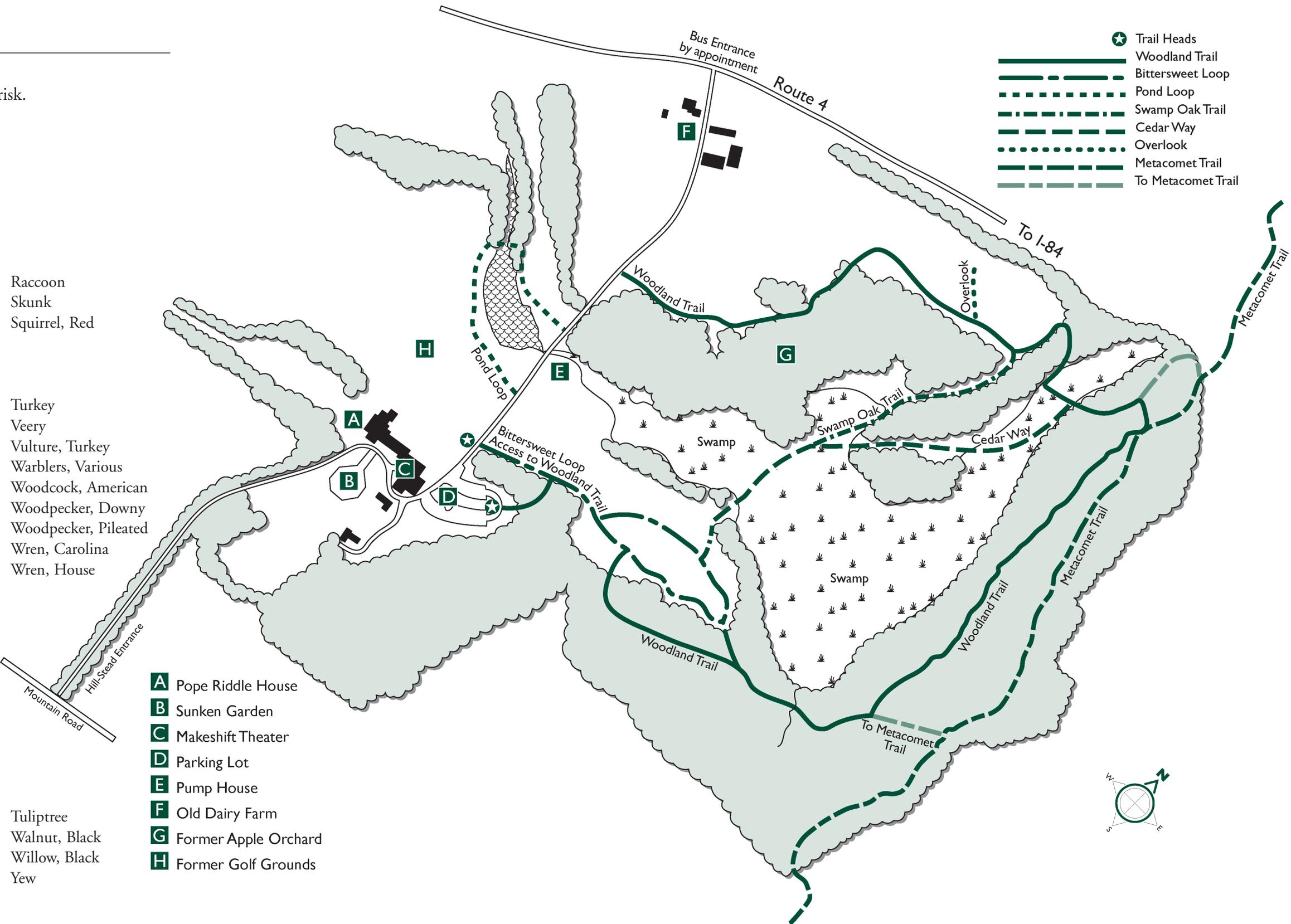
Bobcat	Fox	Raccoon
Chipmunk	Mole, Star-nosed	Skunk
Coyote	Opossum	Squirrel, Red
Deer	Rabbit	

WATCH FOR BIRDS

Blackbird, Red-winged	Mourning Dove	Turkey
Bluebird	Oriole	Veery
Finches, various	Owl, Barred	Vulture, Turkey
Flicker	Scarlet Tanager	Warblers, Various
Grosbeak	Sparrows, various	Woodcock, American
Hawk, Red-tail	Swallows, Barn	Woodpecker, Downy
Heron, Great Blue	Swallows, Tree	Woodpecker, Pileated
Heron, Green	Thrushes, Hermit	Wren, Carolina
Kingfisher	Thrushes, Wood	Wren, House
Meadowlark, Eastern	Titmouse	
Mockingbird	Towhee	

IDENTIFY TREES

Apple, Common	Hemlock, Eastern
Apple, Crab	Hickory
Ash, White	Maple, Norway
Boxelder	Maple, Red
Butternut	Maple, Sugar
Cedar, Eastern Red	Oak, Black White
Cherry, Flowering	Oak, Swamp
Cherry, Sweet	Oak, White
Cypress, Sawara	Pear, Common
Dogwood, Flowering	Pine, White
Elm, American	Spruce, Norway



- A** Pope Riddle House
- B** Sunken Garden
- C** Makeshift Theater
- D** Parking Lot
- E** Pump House
- F** Old Dairy Farm
- G** Former Apple Orchard
- H** Former Golf Grounds