Welcome to Hill-Stead
Hill-Stead Museum, the 1901 Colonial Revival-style house, was designed by pioneering female architect, Theodate Pope Riddle.
Whether you love fine art and design, the beauty of gardens and woodland trails, celebrating the seasons, experiencing live poetry performances or immersing yourself in history, Hill-Stead is always ready to welcome you.

Learn
The three miles of walking trails at Hill-Stead embody the rich history of its landscape, winding among historic farmland, fruit orchards, pastures and forest...exquisite in any season.
Likely originating as Native American paths and also once used by sleighs and carriages, today the trails welcome strolling neighbors and visitors from around the world...four-legged and two-legged alike!
With a pond habitat, meadows, lowland, lowbush and forest, our trails are a paradise for nature enthusiasts of all ages.
We offer guided estate walks and a variety of outdoor activities and programs, such as May Market and the Sunken Garden Poetry Festival.

Share
If you venture onto the Woodland Trail, look for this book hung up on a tree by two local boys for visitors to sign and share their sightings!

Support
As a nonprofit organization, Hill-Stead Museum relies on support from people like you to maintain its collections, grounds, trails and facilities.
Please consider joining as a member, making a charitable donation to the museum, and/or becoming a volunteer, such as a guide in the house or a member of our Garden and Trail Gangs.

Visit our museum shop or hillstead.org to learn more

Walking Trail Guidelines
Please help us preserve this unique setting by observing the following guidelines:
- Trails are open daily from 7:30am-5:30pm
- Please park in the designated lot
- Dogs are welcome, but must be leashed
- Please clean up after your pets
- Leave no trace
- No trail bikes or motorized vehicles
- No camping or fires
- No smoking, alcohol or illegal drugs
- Please use caution and enjoy the property at your own risk
- Keep away from poison ivy
- Check your clothing and skin for ticks that may carry Lyme disease
- Black bears have been seen in this area, so if you see one, please do not feed or attract it
Bittersweet Loop
Easy – .4 miles
Orange blazes, access from either Trail Head
Once open pasture, the land around this trail is overtaken by invasive bittersweet, honeysuckle and multiflora rose. When Hill-Stead was an active farm, the small stone Pump House in the field’s northwest corner directed water to domestic and service buildings.

Woodland Trail
Easy – .8 miles
White blazes, access from Bittersweet Loop
This trail follows an old bridle path once used by the Pope family, passing through forest as well as meadow and a former apple orchard. In the northeast corner, look for vestiges of an old road. Notice the trap rock ridge above, molded by volcanic activity millions of years ago. Don’t miss the meadow Overlook, offering a view of the old dairy farm and the Farmington Valley.

Pond Loop
Easy – .2 miles
Blue blazes, access from road north of Parking Lot
The man-made pond helped to drain the fields, supplied ice to the estate and served as a water hazard for the Pope family’s six-hole golf grounds. Today, the pond is a habitat for ducks, geese, heron, frogs, fish and muskrats. During migration, look for warblers and sparrows.

Swamp Oak Trail
Easy – .2 miles
Yellow blazes, access from Cedar Way or Woodland Trail
This trail traverses the interior of the property. Note several large white swamp oaks, black willow and areas of cattails. It is wet during the rainy season, so watch for frogs.

Cedar Way
Easy – .3 miles
Green blazes, access from Bittersweet Loop or Woodland Trail
Parts of this trail take you through the property’s wetlands. Watch for star-nosed moles, warblers and deer.

Metacomet Trail
.5 miles
This trail follows the north-south ridge on the eastern edge of museum property. For more information, visit ctwoodlands.org.