

The walking trails at Hill-Stead embody the rich history of this landscape, travelling through historic farmland, fruit orchards, and pastures, as well as forest. Likely originating as Native American paths, they were used by sleighs and carriages in the early twentieth century. Today, the trails are walked by neighbors and visitors from around the world. With a pond habitat, meadows, lowland, lowbush and forest, our trails are a paradise for nature enthusiasts of all ages.

Visit [hillstead.org](http://hillstead.org) to learn about outdoor activities, including guided estate walks, our annual May Day and Hay Day celebrations, the Sunken Garden Poetry Festival, and opportunities to volunteer with our Garden Gang and Trail Gang.

For Kids: Visit [hillstead.org/spotted](http://hillstead.org/spotted) for a list of creatures seen at Hill-Stead.



### Walking Trail Guidelines



Please help us preserve this unique setting by observing the following guidelines:

- Trails are open daily from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm.
- 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 might carry Lyme disease.
- Black bears have been seen in this area. If you see a bear, please do not attempt to feed or attract it.



## HILL-STEAD MUSEUM

**Hill-Stead Museum**, including the 1901 Colonial Revival-style house and its surrounding landscape, was designed by pioneering female architect Theodate Pope Riddle. It is among the few intact examples of a Country Place Estate. 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.

### Support Us

Help preserve our historic and natural treasures. As a not-for-profit organization, **Hill-Stead Museum** relies on support from people like you to maintain its collections, grounds, trails and facilities. Please consider becoming a member or making a charitable donation to the museum. Visit our Museum Shop or [hillstead.org](http://hillstead.org) for details.

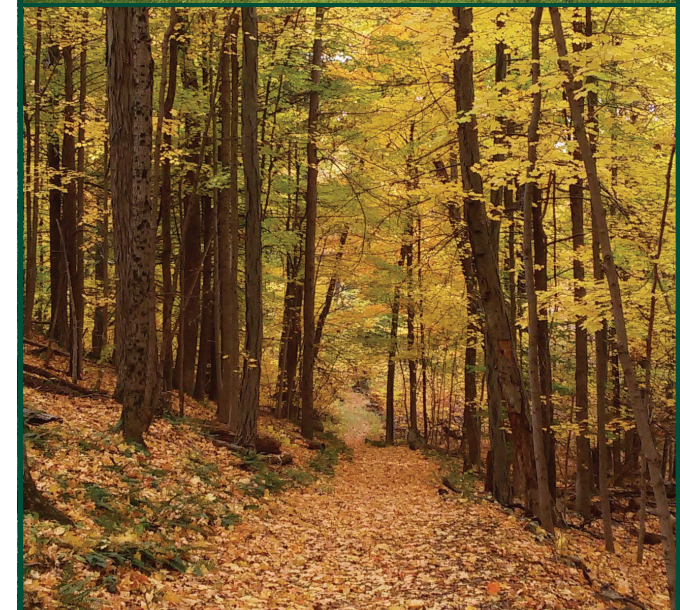
## HILL-STEAD MUSEUM

35 Mountain Road, Farmington, CT 06032

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# HILL-STEAD MUSEUM TRAIL GUIDE



### 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](http://ctwoodlands.org).

