

# WOODCOCK NATURE CENTER



## **ACCESS/PARKING:**

- 56 Deer Run Road, Wilton, off of Nod Road in Ridgefield. [GPS Address: 56 Deer Run Road, Wilton]

**DIFFICULTY:** Varies (see map for details).

**FEATURES:** This is a non-profit, educational facility staffed by full-time naturalists. The Nature Center Interpretive Center and trails are open to the public.

Trails include a handicapped-accessible boardwalk extending into a swamp and 3 miles of woodland trails with views of vernal pools and Spectacle Brook. Mountain laurel, oak, hickory, beech, sweet pepperbush, and ferns abound in the preserve. Wood ducks often nest here and otters have been sighted.

The center is home to a variety of creatures including snakes, frogs, and lizards, and a small number of injured birds of prey.

Go to <https://www.woodcocknaturecenter.org> for information on summer camp programs or call (203) 762-7280.

**HISTORY:** This tract of land, the Spectacle Brook Section of the Norwalk River Flood Control Project, was purchased by the State of Connecticut as a result of damaging floods in 1955. Most of its 146 acres are wetlands with a small area of uplands on the Ridgefield/Wilton border containing the Nature Center and trails.

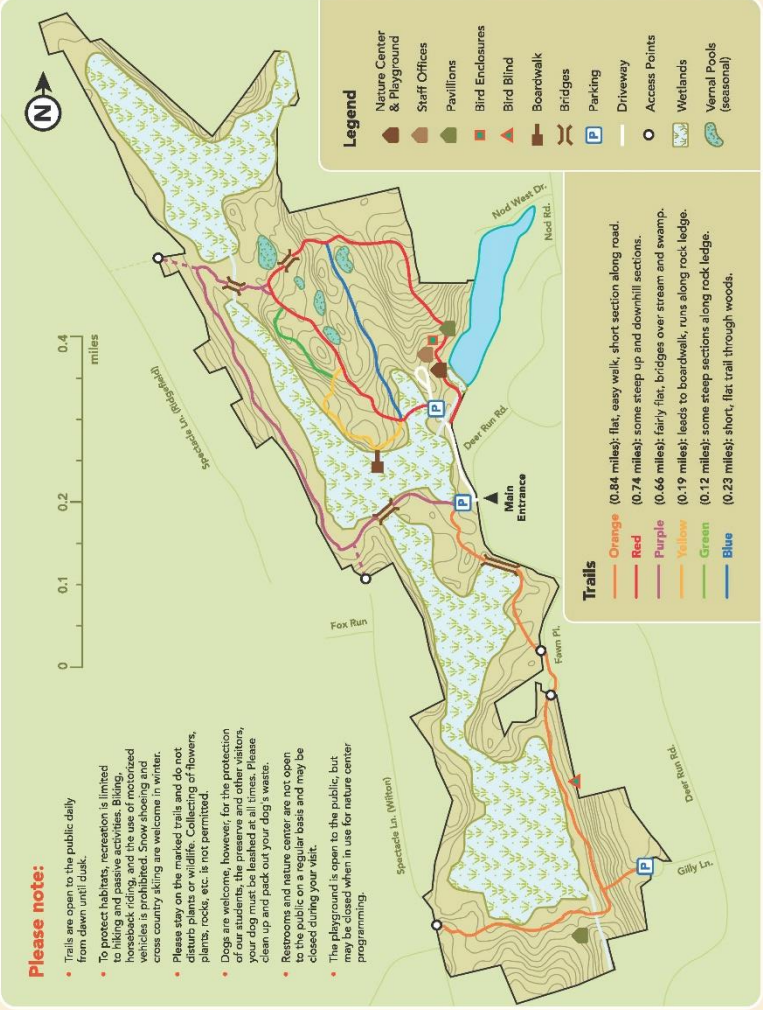
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## Trail Map



### 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 on a leash at all times. Please clean up and pack out your dog's waste.
- Restrooms and nature center are not open during winter months. Buses and trailers are closed during your visit.
- The playground is open to the public, but closed when in use for nature center programming.



### Legend

- Nature Center & Playground
- Staff Offices
- Pavilions
- 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.