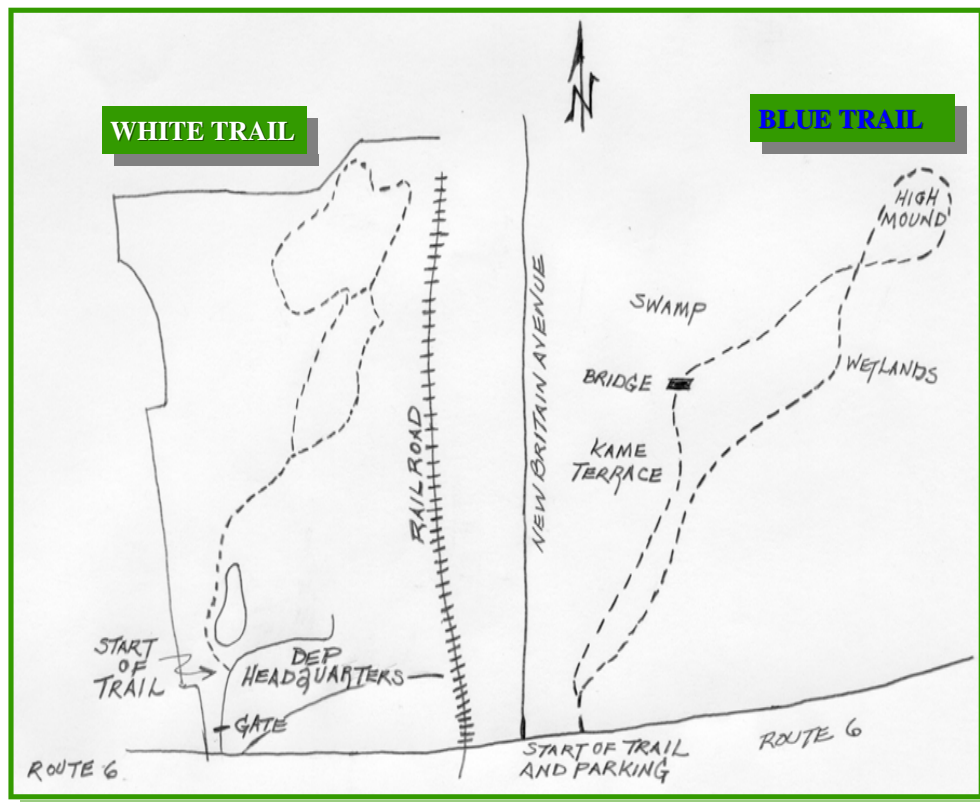


Shade Swamp Sanctuary – This 800-acre sanctuary is owned by the State of Connecticut and contains two nature trails located on the northern side of Rt. 6. The White Trail, on the west side of New Britain Avenue, is 2.5 miles of level walking with parking at the entrance to the DEP Headquarters, now decommissioned. The Blue Trail, on the east side of New Britain Avenue, is 1.5 miles of level and hilly walking paths with parking near the old pavilion. This trail contains the remains of an old roadside wildlife area that was abandoned in the early 1960's. Trail guide booklets are available at the White Trail.



SHADE SWAMP SANCTUARY

Hill-Stead Museum Trails – There are over two miles of meadow and woodland trails on this 152-acre historic site. Originally used for farming and as carriage and bridle paths, the trails today are enjoyed by nature lovers and walkers of all levels. The trails are open to the public daily from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm and are easily accessed from Hill-Stead's public parking lot. Printed guides, containing a map and descriptions of each trail, can be picked up at the trail head. There is no charge for using the trails. For more information about trail-related activities, visit www.hillstead.org.



HILL-STEAD MUSEUM

Walking Trails in Farmington, Connecticut

Burnt Hill Trail – This trail close to the West Hartford line is located between Farmington Avenue and Middle Road. It is near several flood control dikes and connects with 65 acres of property which the Town of Farmington purchased from the City of Hartford in 2003. Parking is available at both entrances. The trail is currently not well defined.

Canal Aqueduct Path – This towpath runs for 700 feet to the Farmington River, where two stone abutments were built to transport barges that floated on a wooden trough 35 feet above the water. This land, donated by James Thomson, was the first piece of property given to the Farmington Land Trust. Parking is at the entrance off Rte.10, two miles north of Farmington Center.

Farmington Memorial Forest – The Memorial Forest was established in memory of those who lost their lives during World War I. Land was donated to the town by many surrounding residents. In 1945, 2nd Lt. Vincent H. Core died crash landing his P47 Thunderbolt plane in this then remote area, courageously avoiding residential neighborhoods in Bristol. The Forest is a level walk that is all woodland with access from several points. The main entrance is on Plainville Avenue. Walking and biking are allowed from dawn to dusk.

Farmington Reservoir Trail – This trail is located on 57 acres of land purchased by the Town of Farmington in 2000 from the Unionville Water Department. Parking is accessed from Reservoir Road. The trail to the west side of the reservoir is easy with benches for relaxing while the trail to the east is more difficult and eventually leads to the Metacomet Trail. Ice fishing is enjoyed by many in the winter months, and beaver have been clearing the area opening up the view for all of us.

Farmington Valley Greenway & Farmington River Trail – A booklet entitled "A Taste of Our Trail Mix" describes in great detail the history of these very popular trails; it also includes maps of the trails and information on parking. This booklet is available at the Farmington Town Hall and the Farmington Recreation Division near Westwoods Golf Course. These trails are ten feet wide, wheelchair-accessible and designed for walking, jogging, biking, and rollerblading. More information can be found at fvgreenway@aol.com or www.members.aol.com/fvgreenway.

Handicapped Accessible Trail – Located on the Farmington River off Railroad Avenue in Unionville, this unique trail & fishing pier should be completed the summer of 2006. The initial property was donated to the Farmington Land Trust by local developer, Tom Zipp, in memory of his parents, Elmer & Claire Zipp. Land Trust Director, Dick Noyes, suggested that a handicapped accessible fishing pier be built in the area. In order to position the pier at a bend in the river providing a spectacular view north of a small island and an old stone bridge, the site was moved to adjacent land which had been donated by the Douglas-Mount family. Local business men, Jake Carrier and partners Jeff Sager & Peter Dunn joined Mr. Zipp and architect, David Eveleth, in developing a recreational area specifically designed to be wheelchair accessible.

John McManama Nature Trail – This trail was established in 1982 in honor of John McManama, principal at West District School. The land was once part of a farm owned by Mr. Bushley, whose house and barn still stand on Coppermine Road. There are approximately 40 acres of varying habitat, interesting boulders known as glacial erratics, and even some remains of an old road and old cellar holes. The trail begins behind the school in the upper playground and enters the woods through a small area edged with rocks. Follow the red blazes on the trees through the hollow, cross the path to Walnut Farms, head back up a steep hill, and finally descend the hill onto a path leading back to Walnut Farms.

Metacomet Trail – The Metacomet Trail in Connecticut follows the traprock range from the Hanging Hills in Meriden to the Massachusetts border for approximately 51 miles. It is named for the Indian, Metacomet (Prince Philip), who is supposed to have directed the burning of Simsbury from one of the summits. See three maps: Metacomet/Mattabesett, U.S. 6 to Tariffville, and Metacomet – North Section in the *Connecticut Walk Book – A Trail Guide to the Connecticut Outdoors*. This book is available at both libraries in Farmington.

Nancy Conklin Trail – The land for this trail was donated to the Farmington Land Trust by the Cowles family. The Farmington Garden Club cleared part of the trail in honor of one of its founders, Nancy Conklin. Parking is on Meadow Road and the trail runs north along the Pequabuck River.

Suburban Park – This park is a historic landmark in the center of Unionville. It contains the remnants of an "electrical amusement park" that flourished from 1895 to 1905. Purchased by the Town of Farmington in 2001, it provides 20.5 acres of open space with two miles of hilly walking trails. The park contains five circular "kettles" formed during the glacial age. Best parking is at the Lion's Park at the end of Cottage Street off Rt. 167. Guided tours are available through the Unionville Museum.

Winding Trails – Winding Trails is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1947 with land donated by Avon Old Farms School and the lake donated by Dunning Sand & Gravel Co. There are 13 miles of trails open to the public in the winter for cross country skiing for a daily fee.

Note: See descriptions for trails at the Hill-Stead Museum and Shade Swamp Sanctuary on back page.

This information is provided by the Town of Farmington and the Farmington Garden Club.

2006