

Metacomet Trail

Farmington's Middle Section of the New England Trail

4.5 miles

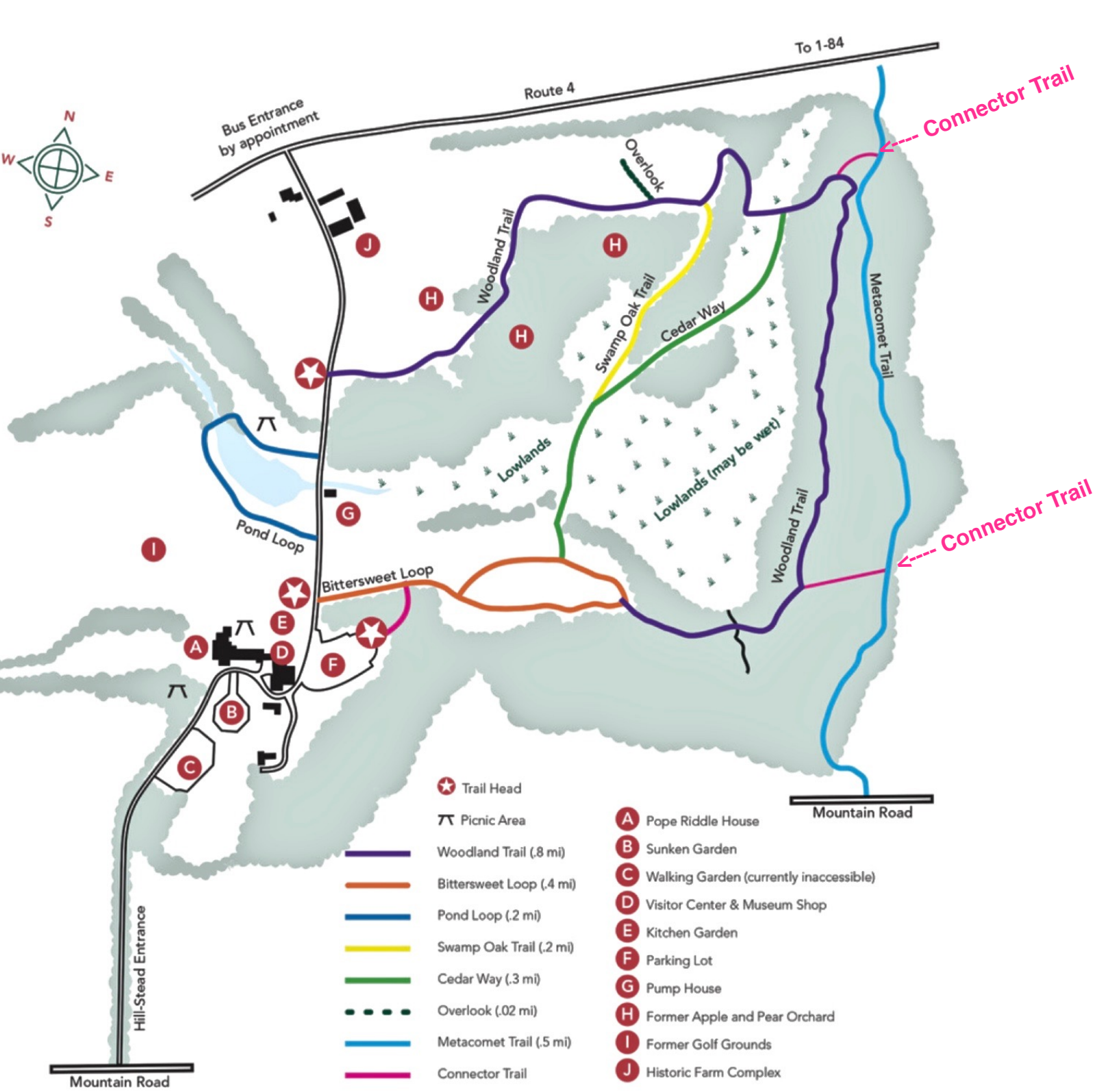


Eagle Rock marks the trail while keeping an eye on the reservoir below.

The New England Trail (NET) is one of eleven National Scenic Trails in the USA. The 233 mile trail connects Long Island Sound to Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire. It crosses Farmington from south to north on the Metacomet Trail. The middle section crosses over Farmington Mountain, which is part of the Metacomet Ridge. Local hikers will tell you that they never “Met-a-comet” they didn’t like.

This hike makes the path of a lollipop where the sweet spot is the Hill-Stead property. Parking is at the Hill-Stead Museum on the east side of the Visitor Center. Pick up a map at the information kiosk and you might want to make a donation after you are impressed with its trail system found on page 2.

Hike north on their paved driveway, passing the Pond Loop and turn right onto the wide Woodland Trail. At 0.6 miles you might want to check out the very short spur trail to a great overlook. At 0.9 miles you will see the painted blue blazes for the Metacomet Trail. Turn left to follow this trail another 0.1 miles until you can see route 4. Turn around and hike south on the NET. At about 1.3 miles the NET makes a 90° left turn and you will also see a house to the east. This is the location for the unmarked connecting trail to your car when you return. Continue south on the NET crossing Mountain Road at 1.4 miles. Turn right and then left to stay on the NET. At 2.2 miles you will pass Eagle Rock (photo) and some great views to the west and at 2.6 miles you will reach route 6. Turn around and pass Eagle Rock at 3.0 miles. At 3.7 miles you will return to Mountain Road. At 4.0 miles you will see the house to the east as the New England Trail turns right. Turn left onto a narrow connecting trail that merges with the wide Woodland Trail in a 100 yards. Follow the Woodland Trail west until you reach the “T” junction with the Bittersweet Loop that is marked with a large sign. Turn left to follow the Bittersweet Trail back to the paved driveway. Turn left to return to your car at 4.5 miles and after hiking 1,150 vertical feet.



Hill-Stead Museum, Trail Information: <https://www.hillstead.org/plan-your-visit/outdoors-at-hill-stead/>
 Farmington Mt: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farmington_Mountain
 Additional resources: NET https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_England_National_Scenic_Trail